



See page 2  
for details  
about the Argo  
logo contest.

# THE ARGO

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THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE BOSTON LATIN SCHOOL

## Rest in Peace, Anna

By Sylvie Stoloff (I), News Editor

With contributions from Caroline Conroy, Maggie Sullivan, Sam Litster, Avery Kirkpatrick, Alexci Gonzalez, Caroline DiCenso and Julia McNeil (III)



SAMANTHA TO (I)

**BLS - Students release balloons bearing messages to Anna Jerome at her memorial.**

Anna Jerome, a Boston Latin School tenth-grader many of us knew and loved, passed away from leukemia this past October, leaving behind twin brother Will, younger sister Emily and dozens of caring and committed friends.

An evident beacon of positivity, one of Anna's most lasting impressions is her ever-present smile, which followed her through the good times and the bad. Anna "loved being around happy people," remembers her friend Sam Litster (III). Consequently, people "could

not help but be happy around her," says Avery Kirkpatrick (III), another member of Anna's loving friend group, "Anna's Pals."

Described by her friend Caroline Conroy (III), as "hilarious, trustworthy, caring, understanding and a little shy," Anna was always looking out for her friends. Although she was "obsessed" with shopping and maintained a reputation for always having the best outfits, Anna loved giving gifts even more than receiving them. "Anna was a shopaholic," says

her friend Maggie Sullivan (III), who fondly remembers Anna sending their friends' group chat pictures of potential outfits for the next day, on which Anna's Pals would vote for the best.

Some of her friends' favorite memories revolve around crazy shopping excursions with Anna. Sam Litster recalls a time when all her friends snuck into an "illegal flea market" with Anna, all donning hospital masks in solidarity with their friend.

Anna's determination, es-

pecially in the face of adversity, was truly inspiring. Ms. Gribaud, her Algebra II teacher, calls Anna "a teacher's dream student." Even though she was forced by her illness to spend all but two months of her ninth grade year in the hospital, Anna kept up her studies enough to pass the ninth grade!

Ms. Gribaud would make trips to Anna's home or hospital room to tutor her, and was pleasantly surprised again and again when Anna came ready with relevant questions, always eager to learn. Her teacher was "completely amazed at this very sick young girl who was also very determined to keep up with her BLS schoolwork," whose story constantly reminds her to "appreciate each and every day a bit more."

Anna spread this enthusiasm and determination to her friends, as well, whom she was constantly encouraging. Anna's Pal Alexci Gonzalez (III) recalls: "I remember every time I would go to her stressed and say how much I hated school and wanted to give up, she would tell me, 'If I can do well in all my classes while I'm stuck in this hospital then you can do it too; we can do it together.' And it was something about the way she said it that gave me hope and motivated me to do my best."

A decorated member of the BLS varsity track team, Anna also displayed her famous determination in her athletic endeavors. "Anna was amazing at track," says Maggie

Sullivan. "I don't think I ever saw her upset after a bad day; she was always in a positive attitude, ready to work harder to improve."

And it was not just with track that Anna touched the BLS community, of course. Anna was also a member of the swim team and played trumpet in the band. On October 7, the school community held a memorial for Anna to commemorate her, a touching balloon-release ceremony.

"I was so happy that so many people showed up to Anna's memorial at school. It really meant a lot to her family and friends to see the support from everyone," says Anna's Pal Caroline DiCenso (III). Anna's friends each read something about Anna at the ceremony in memory of her. DiCenso wanted to use this time to ensure that Anna's peers remembered her for the girl she was, and not just for her illness.

"Anyone who had met her was lucky to have known her for the bright, bubbly girl that she was, and not just the cancer patient who went to school with us. It was the first thing that came to mind when I sat down to write [my speech]," she explains.

Committed student, determined athlete and loyal friend, Anna will be missed dearly by the BLS community and undoubtedly by those beyond. Anna's Pal Julia McNeil (III), puts it simply: "She was basically just the ideal friend, and I'm glad she was one of mine."

## Ms. Kilbourn Returns from Adventures in Asia

By Albert Mao (III) & Jonathan Li (IV), Contributing Writers

Ms. Katharine Kilbourn, a World History II and AP World History teacher, has just returned from her sabbatical in New Zealand and the Asian countries of Myanmar, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Indonesia. Bringing back memories and educational experiences, Ms. Kilbourn will be displaying a presentation about her expeditions on Monday, December 1 in the Seevak Room.

Although Ms. Kilbourn has traveled to Asia before, she has not been to the less populated countries like Myanmar and Laos. Her first destination, Myanmar, was just recently opened to Westerners. She then visited Vietnam, where her husband's uncle is an ambassador. She continued her voyage into Laos, which she remembers for the beautiful waterfalls of its countryside. After a brief detour to Cambodia, she arrived at her final destination: the exotic island of New Zealand. Ms. Kilbourn most enjoyed the foreign nature feel and beautiful terrain there.

A seasoned world traveler, Ms. Kilbourn loves to bring her experiences to the classroom. "Traveling is what has brought me to teaching because I learned so much about the world and what other

people are living like," she explains. Ms. Kilbourn has also worked as a community organizer and an international director prior to becoming a teacher; she has even done volunteer work in Japan!

One of the unique elements of traveling, Ms. Kilbourn comments, is the experience of truly witnessing history before her eyes.

"Textbooks are good about getting the facts," she says, but they pale in comparison to being completely immersed in the history. "Looking at the 40-50 feet gold Buddhas and seeing the temples themselves and what a large area they encompassed," explains the history teacher, providing a kind of knowledge much more complex than what one could glean from any type of reading. Ms. Kilbourn also comments on the importance of traveling, especially given the relative youth of our region in comparison to the ancient civilizations that have thrived abroad.

Ms. Kilbourn makes many references to her journeys in class. For example, she has shown videos of silk that she has made, and has told stories of when she encountered people or tribes that were mentioned in the textbook.

Many students find these connections really helpful. Joanna Masin-Buck (III), finds Ms. Kilbourn's teaching style "a more interactive way of learning." She adds, "seeing the process of silk making through the eyes of our teacher, brought a sense of realness into what we were reading from our textbooks."

Khoa Nguyen (III), also appreciates these connections. "Ms. Kilbourn's experiences bring a lot to the table, especially when it comes to history lessons! Her stories provide global context on the past and how they are relevant even today!" she says.

Ms. Kilbourn has high hopes for her presentation on December 1. "I absolutely want to communicate my stories to the students during my presentation.



KATHARINE KILBOURN

**Cambodia - Ms. Kilbourn captures the Royal Palace Phnom Penh pagoda.**

I have some amazing pictures. I want to give students the belief that it is really, really important to travel, that it broadens your mind, and makes you more accepting and tolerant, makes your life more exciting, gives you more self-assurance and really changes your life immensely."

In a statement that captures the essence of the importance of these excursions, Ms. Kilbourn proclaims: "I am the person I am because of my travels."



EDITORS' NOTE

To our fellow Argonauts:

Welcome! We hope that by the third month of school, you’ve managed to dust off those filing cabinets in your brains which hold all-too-essential information like how many atoms are in a molecule ( $6.022 \times 10^{23}$ )—to all who have yet to take chemistry: we’re so sorry...), or “arma virumque cano,” or how to multiply matrices. And, more importantly, hopefully you’ve relearned how to read! Because we have 16 delightful pages just for you. That’s right—we thought of all 2,400 of you in the midst of making emergency pilgrimages to Starbucks, secretly dancing to Taylor Swift’s Blank Space in the 016 computer lab and obsessively color coding Google spreadsheets.

Even though this is the second issue of Argo this year, we can tell by the stack of Extracurricular Fair papers outside Mr. Flynn’s office that not all of you got the chance to bask in the glory of Argo’s new layout. So here you are—bask away!

In this issue, you’ll learn about the Boston Latin School Association’s new Prima Perpetua campaign, Ms. Kilbourn’s adventures in Southeast Asia, the most recent improv show, the boys’ soccer team’s rise to stardom and so much more. Plus, you’ll get the inside scoop on some upperclassmen in our five senior spotlights.

If you’re still struggling to survive that final, excruciating day before Thanksgiving and can’t find the time to fully appreciate the journalistic genius that is Argo, then feel free to bring it home and feast (see what we did there?!) your eyes while you satisfy your stomachs.

Happy Thanksgiving!  
*Isabelle & Anna, Editors-in-Chief*

P.S. Go Latin beat English!  
P.P.S. How do you like the new masthead? It was taken from the March 1969 issue of the Argo, the first issue ever!



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Not Pictured: Ming Ying, Terry Ni, Anli Xiang, & Zoe Huang

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Special Thanks to

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Calling all artists! The Argo is launching a New Logo Contest.

We’ve decided that the howling wolf needs an upgrade, especially with our new, snazzy layout. So we’re soliciting submissions from YOU!

Here are the guidelines:

- Only visual; no text
- Grayscale color palette
- Must be a compact shape (not too tall, long, skinny, etc.)
- Be creative! It can feature a wolf like the old logo or something relevant (for example: no random kitty cats or pizzas).
- You are not limited to one submission!

Email your submission(s) to [blsargo@gmail.com](mailto:blsargo@gmail.com) or drop it off in Room 207 with your name, grade, homeroom and email by December 22.

**PRIZE:** The winner will be awarded with a BLS prize pack from the school store—and bragging rights!  
*This is a big deal; your work will hold a place of honor on future Argo front pages!*

Please contact us at [blsargo@gmail.com](mailto:blsargo@gmail.com) with any questions!  
(Note: If we don’t get something we like enough, the contest may be extended.)

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**Ad Petendum Veritatem**

The Argo strives, in accordance with the highest standards of journalism, to inform and inspire its readers, to provide a forum for constructive debate, and to foster understanding among all members of the Boston Latin School community.

# BLS Launches Prima Perpetua Campaign

By Isabelle DeSisto (I), Editor-in-Chief



**BLS - Founders' Gallery inductees sport their new letterman jackets.**

The Boston Latin School community officially launched its Prima Perpetua fundraising campaign this month, with hundreds of alumni and parents gathering for a weekend of celebration.

Prima Perpetua, Latin for “First Forever,” seeks to generate funds that will support global learning initiatives, updated technology and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics resources, revitalized liberal arts and fellowship and leadership opportunities, according to Headmaster Mooney Teta (‘86). The campaign will also finance a new full-time athletic director, Alumnus Jack Owens (‘03), who plans to begin in January.

“We see the motivation and the variety of activities students can’t participate in because of financial constraints,” said Peter Kelly (‘83), president of the Boston Latin School Association. The goal is that Prima Perpetua will help to expand students’ opportunities and “ensure that

Latin School has a standing as the premier educational experience of the 21st century,” he said.

The campaign’s goal is to raise fifty million dollars by its conclusion in 2017; so far, the total generated is 27,157,425 dollars.

For Prima Perpetua’s official launch, the BLSA organized a series of events to promote the campaign and honor alumni who have made contributions.

On Friday, November 14, approximately 50 guests gathered in the “Lorraine and Alan Bressler Gallery”—named for a BLS alumnus and his wife—at the Museum of Fine Arts for a short cocktail event. Alumni and supporters gathered and expressed their thoughts about Prima Perpetua while surrounded by art from the 19th century painters of the Boston School movement.

“[It’s] interesting to come here because I didn’t fully appreciate how so much I’m involved in is supported by people here,”

said Ms. Freeman, who has alumni to thank for her work in the Facing History, Art History and Capstone courses. “I went to a high school where we were all eager to get away...[but] alums here want to come back.”

“We are so proud that we can give back to today’s students,” said Mike Caljouw (‘84), former Sports Editor of Argo.

The subsequent Saturday morning, November 15, six BLS alumni became inductees into the Founders’ Gallery, an honor bestowed upon those who have donated at least one million dollars to the school. A brunch in the library and a presentation in the auditorium celebrated the six donors: Raymond Nasher (‘39), Sidney Wolk (‘53), Stephen Corman (‘54), Michael Leven (‘55), William Schawbel (‘57) and Thomas Ryan (‘59).

At the event, alumni shared anecdotes about their experiences at BLS. One mentioned that only six out of the thirty-six students in his sixie homeroom

went on to graduate, while several reminisced about the antics of a certain “Doc Roche.”

Prima Perpetua’s official launch culminated that same evening in a gala dinner at the Seaport Boston Hotel. Over 400 alumni, family, faculty, administration and supporters attended.

A reception and sit-down dinner bookended the presentation of a Boston Latin School Distinguished Graduate Award to Philip Landrigan (‘59), who, as a pediatrician and epidemiologist, pioneered efforts to remove lead from gasoline and paint in the United States, fight smallpox and measles and study health effects related to the tragedies of 9/11.

“Latin School prepared me for a career that I simply could not have imagined,” said Landrigan. “It taught me how to work hard as hell to learn things.”

Before dessert, a video highlighted the campaign’s objectives. After, Peter Kelly and Headmaster Mooney Teta re-

vealed the fifty-million-dollar goal and the progress that has already been made thanks to donations from BLS supporters.

“BLS is a true community, and a community is only as strong as the people who support what we do. That includes parents, faculty, administration and alumni, because the focus is always on doing what is best for young people,” said Headmaster Emerita Cornelia Kelley.

Peter Kelly agrees. Backing from alumni is “fundamental” to the success of Boston Latin School, but “BLSA is not an alumni association,” he said. “We are an organization that unites anyone who cares about BLS.”

Prima Perpetua follows the Pons Privatus campaign, which ended in 2002 and was responsible for the renovations to the building which created the art and music wings, library, dining hall, Schawbel College Resource Center and McCarthy Institute for Transition and Support.

## Spotlight on BLS S.A.S.S.

By Allyson Ping (III) & Hayley Ye (III),  
Contributing Writers



Harris (III) said. “We wanted to let everyone to develop their own idea of what feminism is to them but also to let people know that it’s important because it’s not just about us, it’s also about representing people who don’t have a voice around the world.”

Even though the club was just founded this school year, it has already influenced many of its members.

“Before you’re kind of blind; you could say a lot of things that are sexist because you’re oblivious, and you don’t know since that’s how you’ve been raised, and through the club you realize that it’s sexist, and how we can improve upon those things, so you can avoid doing those same things and you can help support people rather than oppress them,” said Elizabeth Seero (IV), a club member.

Club member Rachel Shanahan (III) said, “I think it’s not only about learning about sexism and all the things that come with it in society, but also having a place to talk within our school because it is something that is important and it occurs in our school and it occurs in our lives and it’s something that’s really important to address.”

The club has not only affected its members, but it has touched the co-presidents’ lives as well. As co-founder Lilly Anderson (III) said, “It’s so exciting to, once a week, see people talk about this stuff, because this is the kind of stuff that I’ll talk to people about and I’ll just constantly get negative feedback and I feel like I’m talking to a wall, but here I see people opening up, we’ve had really deep discussions and we’ve had people start to cry talking about really personal things.”

## Senior Capstone Class Visits Slaughterhouse

By Larry Gu (II) & Alicia Zou (IV), Contributing Writers

As part of their research on food and the issues surrounding it, the Boston Latin School (BLS) Senior Capstone class took a field trip this October to the Den Besten Farm slaughterhouse in Bridgewater, as well as to Silverbrook Farm in Dartmouth. Accompanied by Senior Capstone teachers Ms. Freeman and Mr. Mikalaitis and chaperone Ms. Bateman, they observed and interviewed employees at work at the slaughterhouse. The trip was part of the class’ effort to help students develop research skills for the interdisciplinary projects that they will be working on later in the year.

“I wanted the students to have the experience of gathering data in the field through observation and interviews,” explained Mr. Mikalaitis. “It was a valuable experience to see where food comes from.”

During the field trip, students observed a number of food preparation processes, including the skinning of a cow and the slaughtering, skinning and gut-removal of two pigs.

While there, students interviewed the managers and workers in order to refine their interviewing skills. Some were surprised to discover that the slaughterhouse allows certain religious groups to perform ceremonial sacrifices on the premises. In fact, as a facility whose certifications do not allow it to sell meat to restaurants, Den Besten gets a large percentage of its revenue from religiously-affiliated customers.

“The trip was very eye-opening,” said Senior Capstone student Bill Zhou (I). Most others in attendance share this sentiment.

“Nobody really thinks about the process,” commented Mr. Mikalaitis. “It was a very interesting day because I consider myself an animal lover but a

meat eater too. It was something I needed to see.”

At times, however, seeing what goes on in a slaughterhouse was overwhelming.

“Going to the slaughterhouse was quite uncomfortable. Just seeing an animal get killed in front of you... it’s quite an experience,” Zhou added. Indeed, the gore was enough to drive some students outside to seek relief with fresh air.

Senior Capstone student Natasha Karunaratne (I) stopped eating meat as a direct result of the field trip. “At the slaughterhouse I squealed and cried and hid behind my classmates. I came to the conclusion that I have been mindlessly exploiting animals and encouraging their abuse by eating meat all these years,” she said. “Now I feel better about my health and my morals.”

For those students who were already vegetarian before seeing the slaughterhouse, the experience was chilling. Camille DeSisto (I), an avid animal rights activist who has been vegetarian for six years, found the sights “extremely upsetting.” However, she adds: “It’s very important to me to understand what happens and I feel that it was something I needed to see.”

For others, however, the experience was less shocking.

“I’ve been to slaughterhouses before, and I’ve grown up around these things,” Koyama Belmont (I) said of the trip. “I was more used to it.”

At the end of the day, the students largely agreed that the visit was a valuable experience.

“I was proud of the students. They asked thoughtful and probing questions throughout the day,” Mr. Mikalaitis reflects on this out-of-the-box, yet effective, experiment.



# Thank You, Mr. Mayor

By Anton Xue (I), News Editor



City Hall - Mourners leave gifts at Mayer Menino's memorial.

Thousands braved the freezing rain and harsh winds to pay their respects to former Boston Mayor, Thomas Menino, during his wake on November 2. The line stretched far beyond Faneuil Hall, where the wake was held, as Bostonians from all places waited for hours to say goodbye to Menino, Boston's 53rd and longest serving mayor, with 20 years in office.

A happy nostalgia underlined the somber atmosphere as mourners shared their Menino stories with each other, reminiscing about everything that the

beloved mayor had brought to Boston. Dubbed the "Urban Mechanic," Menino managed to meet, in person, over half of the city of Boston; a feat reflected in the personal stories and encounters with the former mayor that many Bostonians are proud to share.

Among Menino's many accomplishments were the changes brought to the schools of Boston. In a famous State of the City speech, delivered in 1996 at the struggling Jeremiah Burke High School, Menino told residents to "judge [him] harshly" if his efforts

to overhaul the city's education system failed.

Since then, Boston Public Schools (BPS) has transformed from a struggling school district into a rapidly improving environment for education, with historically lower dropout rates and higher standardized testing scores and college completion rates. According to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), the average scores of Boston's fourth and eighth graders have steadily increased since 2003. BPS also reports a graduation rate that has continuously risen by nearly 14 percent since 2007 as well as historically low dropout rates.

Menino advocated for an increase in innovation and autonomy for schools. Through his initiatives, BPS launched 22 pilot

schools, including Boston Arts Academy, the first public high school in Boston for visual and performing arts. He also worked to facilitate transportation and access to public resources for students, starting programs such as the OneCard program that combines student I.D.s, Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) passes, library cards and Boston Centers for Youth and Families (BCYF) passes into one card.

Menino's tremendous impact and commitment to the Boston education system is evident in the profound and personal stories that students in Boston have to share about him.

"My elementary school was bilingual and there came a point in time when the bilingual program was in jeopardy of being taken away, as was the school's city-wide status," Emilio Vides-Curnen (I) said in his Menino story. "Students from my school, myself included, went with our

teachers to his office in city hall and met with him to express our concerns. He listened to us and made sure the proposed changes didn't come into effect. He really cared and made sure that my fellow students and I would be able to have access to programs like the one at my school. I really admired him for that."

Menino also made himself a presence in the lives of students outside of school.

"Over the past few years, I've had the opportunity to meet him and interact with him in a number of settings, including the ceremony for academic awards commemorated in his honor given to fifth graders in BPS, experiences at the city-wide science fair and performances with the Boston Children's Chorus," Nafisa Wara (I) told the Argo. "I think that in itself is a testament to how involved he was in the community, in that Bostonians were able to connect with him in so many different contexts."

## New Senior Paper Raises Complaints

By Vicky Grinberg (I) & Cassidy Giacoppo (I), Staff Writer & Contributing Writer

The 2015 Boston Latin School seniors will be writing four smaller research papers instead of last year's one large paper. These papers are four to six pages instead of the usual fifteen. The administration's goal is to reduce the workload during senior year and require only a junior year research paper. This year's seniors are the only students that will write these four papers because the 2014 to 2015 academic year was planned as a transition year. Next year's seniors will not be required to write a senior research paper at all.

While the English department's aim was to alleviate seniors' stress amidst college applications, many students feel even more pressure than before. "These papers contribute directly into your grade point average because two are within the first two terms. Last year's paper was written after college applications were submitted," says Nora Quinn (I).

Many students are disgruntled, discouraged and generally disappointed by the results of the first research paper especially since a majority of students received poor marks. After writing similar analyses throughout their high school careers and doing well, many seniors are somewhat at a loss at this feedback. Some understand their teachers' logic, but others still feel as though they are being punished for something they did not do. Seniors

are left wondering why these mistakes in analysis were not pointed out and corrected before their last year in high school.

Samantha Davern (I) says that it was graded too harshly for the effort seniors demonstrated. "We put in a lot of work for these papers and these grades don't seem to reflect that. My class also had little time to work on this paper, especially compared to last year."

Some say that last year's method was much more effective and just. Although the fifteen page paper was a much larger responsibility and required much more time, it came in the second half of the year. Students add that by the second half of the year, they would have a better grasp both of teachers' expectations and general literary principles in analysis.

Although the first paper yielded unsatisfactory results for both students and teachers, everyone is taking steps to improve the process. The English department and Guidance department are working to help students. One of the AP Literature teachers, Ms. Burke, says that the department may be working on getting rid of the fourth term's research paper, mitigating some of the stress. Class I teachers add that there will also be a much larger emphasis on writing workshops.

## Salad Bar Brings Fresh Choices to BLS

By Halle Kyne (V), Adacie McEnerney (V) & Cindy Trinh (V), Contributing Writers

Recently, the Boston Latin School lunchroom got a healthy new upgrade, a salad bar that rocked the school in early November.

This popular addition brought a new perspective on the way school lunch is seen. Now, hungry students are given another option for a satisfying lunch. Many students and faculty welcome the salad bar back with rumbling stomachs and a craving for veggies.

The salad bar provides a healthier replacement for greasy foods like pizza and burgers. Lily Tran (V) says, "I think it's healthier than the food we normally eat. It's also another choice to choose from for those who don't feel comfortable eating the regular food that BLS serves. Plus, it makes the lunch line shorter."

More importantly, adding vegetables to your plate contributes to your daily-recommended serving of greens, just about two and a half cups. A study conducted in 2010 by the Center of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), however, resulted in the reality that there are still some teens who are not getting this recommended amount. A third of

the teens involved in the study only ate greens once a day or not at all.

The salad bar also brings options, like dressing, that are not necessarily healthier than what is served in the regular lines. For example, one serving (30 grams or about one ounce) of ranch dressing has almost 145 calories. Salad with vegetables and without dressing only has about 30 calories. Toppings such as chicken, tuna, beans, pickles, tomatoes and cucumber are also offered on a daily basis and are much healthier options than dressing.

Despite a relatively positive response to the salad bar, students still think that there are improvements that could be made. Troy Santulli (V) says, "They should add croutons, [but] it's a healthy improvement."

With the salad bar, Boston Latin School has effectively assumed a reputation for healthy lunches. Students and faculty can be proud that they ate something that is good for their bodies. Along with feeling healthy, their minds will also be refreshed and ready to learn.

## Spotlight on Mary Keough

By Haben Kelafi (I) & Michaela Sargent (I), Contributing Writers



If you don't know Mary Keough, you're really missing out. But we find it hard to believe that anyone could miss a girl wrapped in a big blanket, screaming down the senior hallway. And if the blanket isn't enough, she's the one with the big red jeep, displaying the license plate "KEOUGH." Mary is very hard to miss, and once you know her, she's impossible to forget.

You may know her as the girl rocking the side-braid and crop top, but we remember Mary when she was just skin and bones, with eyes that were a little too big for her head. Don't be fooled by her skinny appearance though; Mary ate. She always had some sort of snack in a plastic bag to munch on, and every day during lunch, she would easily finish the only edible thing the dining hall served: a tuna salad sub. And regardless of her small body, she was just as loud and just as bubbly. Simply hearing "Harry Potter," she would scream with excitement—something she still does today, as a senior.

In the eighth grade, she could never be caught in a study. Instead, she would sit in the hallway outside of Mrs.

Long's room with a bunch of her friends "doing homework." Besides gaining a few pounds and occasionally chopping off her Rapunzel-like hair, not much has changed about Mary. She was the nicest girl you could know as an underclassman, and she still is. Mary is the type of person to be friends with anybody; we're convinced she would befriend a sixie. She is the most altruistic person we know, and and will probably ever know. She always has other people in mind, even if it means sacrificing precious time with her beloved four-legged friend, Lincoln. She's such a fierce friend that she'll have it out against anyone who hurts someone she cares about. That is what is great about being friends with Mary: you always know she'll be there for you when you need her. Whether you see her walking to or from Park Drive, in line at Roche's buying her daily dose of Nutella and popsicles, cheering on Peter Honzik at a football game, or completing her checklist in Southie, you can be sure she'll have a big smile on her face that will brighten up your day—unless you have insulted her soon-to-be fiancé, Harry Styles... then you can be sure you're on her hit list.

If you haven't befriended the queen yet—don't worry! Here's some advice: go up to her and give her a compliment (it's not difficult) and you'll be instant friends. We're so grateful to call her our best friend.



# Baker Wins Governor's Race

By Ben Wu (IV) & Armen Youssoufian (V), Staff Writer & Contributing Writer



BLS - Student volunteers tally the BLS mock election results

On November 4, Republican representative Charlie Baker was elected as the governor of Massachusetts after a tight race against Democratic representative, Martha Coakley.

Baker beat Coakley with 48.5 to 46.6 percent victory, and will assume office on January 8, 2015. In the Boston Latin School mock election, Coakley led with 53.5 percent, while Baker came in

second with 31.5. History teacher, Dominic Rinaldi also garnered 2.5 percent of the votes and the love of his students.

Both candidates emphasized the importance of childhood education. Coakley planned on starting a 1.5 billion dollar universal Pre-K system in Massachusetts for low income families. Maddie Kilgannon (I) says, "One of her policy points that I felt most passionate about was her dedication to making universal Pre-K a reality in the commonwealth. . . education as a policy point is really important."

Baker's plan focused on providing a solid K to 12 education and raising the state cap on charter schools. Charlie Chen (IV) says, "I liked Baker's policy where he said he wanted to reform people's thoughts with education. He told a story of wanting a fisherman's

kid to think bigger for himself and to become something better than a fisherman, and that education should allow children to dream bigger and break their conventional molds."

In addition to the candidate choices, the ballot questions were also given to students during the mock election.

Question 1 regarded a gas tax law passed in 2013 that ties the rate of inflation to the tax. Massachusetts voters and BLS students both voted to repeal the law.

Question 2 was about the expansion of the bottled and canned beverage recycling programs in Massachusetts. Massachusetts voters voted to not expand the programs, while BLS students voted to expand.

Question 3, one of the most controversial ballot questions, re-

garded the construction of casinos and slot parlors in Everett and Springfield. At the polls, voters voted to permit the start of construction, while the students in the mock election did not support the construction of casinos.

Question 4 focused on sick days given to employee. A "yes" vote would require businesses with more than eleven workers to reward workers with one paid hour off for every thirty hours worked. Both Massachusetts voters and BLS students voted to pass the new sick day policy.

While the Coakley-majority BLS student body did not see their first-choice candidate win, they are, nevertheless, hopeful of the future.

A Class V student concluded, "Even though Charlie Baker won, I believe he will still be a great governor."

## Celebrating Years of Neary

By Matthew Boyle (I) & Mark Zhang (III), Contributing Writers

Dr. Gerald Neary, a beloved member of the history department, has recently left Boston Latin School to move to Chicago, where he hopes to eventually resume his teaching career. Incoming students to BLS "will never have such a unique and amazing learning experience" as provided by Dr. Neary, Edgar Bolivar (I) points out.

His one of a kind teaching style, amazing voice acting and Coke bottle filled with coffee, will be dearly missed by all. Beloved by many, Dr. Neary managed to get students of all stripes interested in history with his unusual personality and acute knowledge of the subject.

Dr. Neary knew that students were more interested in history as a story than as a subject. He could recount countless humorous facts about historical figures, making them far more interesting than any textbook possibly could. Archimedes? He's the guy who discovered a way to predict if objects float by jumping in a bath and shouting "Eureka!" Richard the Lionheart? He's the guy who had a bromance with Saladin. By making historical figures human and tangible, he made history far more interesting.

As Kevin Zhang (III) recalls, "Dr. Neary's effective and unique teaching style stuck out to me and by listening in class, I progressed quickly in his class and learned history in an enjoyable way." His

lengthy and calculated lectures left much stronger impressions than traditional methods of studying, and helped students immensely during tests.

Dr. Neary also fondly recalls his memorable times at BLS. In an email to former student Alejandra Spruill (II), he laments, "I doubt that I will ever again have the opportunity to teach such a distinguished student body. Where would I ever find another one who would embrace my craziness?" He welcomes students to "communicate with him - séance time! - with any questions, comments, observations and lamentations."

Spruill herself is one of Dr. Neary's greatest fans. "He constantly encourages my love of history, my love of learning, my love of life. I am forever grateful to him for that," she said.

Teachers like Dr. Neary will become eternal and remembered relics of the times, reminding the community of the unique history of BLS. His aphorisms, too, will be dearly missed. Spruill quotes a personal favorite: "Life is a banquet and most poor suckers are starving to death, so sample as much of it as you can and never stop learning living."

For now, all that former students can think of is the disappearance of the colorful character in cardigans, teaching in room 121 with a voice which reverberates in our minds as a piece of the grand past.

## A Change For German Education

By Carol Cao (V) & Reyna Han (V), Contributing Writers

Recently, Frau Neumann became the permanent substitute for Frau Kuchta, who is on maternity leave, and is bringing a new taste of German education to Boston Latin School.

From October 14 onwards, Frau Neumann has been teaching the students in German 1, 3 and 4 and it feels as if the transition is going smoothly.

"It's a really nice school, and the students are really friendly and willing to learn," Frau Neumann said. "I really like it here." She also expressed that the students are getting along very well.

The students also say that they really like the new German substitute and are satisfied with the material they are learning so far, even though they are going at a faster pace.

Avi Vasquez (II) said, "It's a really fun class, and I think you learn a lot. It is an interactive class that everyone can participate in and understand."

Her background which includes teaching in Germany along with a past role in teaching at a German Saturday School showcase her experience and expertise.

"We're learning a lot more cultural things now because she's actually from Germany, and that helps because we didn't really know about the specific German cities before," Mahlet Shiferaw (II) said.

One of the more experienced students also mentioned how Frau Neumann's swift and advanced teaching pace will help students on the AP exam if they are planning to take AP German.

One of the main worries among both new and experienced German students, however, is needing to adapt to a new teacher and teaching style shortly into the school year. Despite this, students seem to be doing well.

"It feels different but not uncomfortable," comments Robert Arnold (II).

While on maternity leave, Frau Kuchta remains in touch with her students and Frau Neumann to confirm that they are staying on track and following the curriculum. She posts on her teacher web frequently, stating the daily homework and some occasional announcements. Both her email and Frau Neumann's email are available to answer all of the questions the students may have. She has also created a Quizlet class with the vocabulary that students learn throughout the school year.

German 1, 3 and 4 students have nothing to fear. German education at BLS is not something to worry about, regardless if there are one or two teachers. Frau Neumann and Frau Kuchta may have differences of pace and teaching methods, but students agree that they are both magnificent teachers.

## Spotlight on Kristen Fields

By Isabelle DeSisto (I) & Tyrone Newell (I), Editor-in-Chief & Contributing Writer



Some might call it "vulg," but we think it's the epitome (pron. "eh-pit-ohm") of cool.

In all seriousness, though, Kristen is what many might call "bae." She's the first person to send you hilarious and heartfelt birthday messages. She's the last person to turn down an invitation (except when it conflicts with her back-to-school shopping weekend). Every outing is an adventure. One day you might drag her to the MFA to see the Magna Carta and wind up crying from laughter in an exhibit of Amish quilts or getting lost with the mummies.

And no spotlight of the legendary Kfields would be complete without a mention of group chat. It's safe to say that if you step away from your phone for more than hour you will have upwards of 300 messages. But you'll want to read every one, because Kristen manages to be both comedic and insightful at the same time (synchronized swimmers).

There's no doubt that wherever Kristen goes, she will slay the game. Whether it's climbing the mountains of Chile, strutting the streets of Dorche or showing off her new fish "hipster backpack," she's already one step ahead of the rest of us. So you've got to ask yourself a question: could you live with yourself if you didn't hear one of her famous jokes before she leaves the hallowed halls of BLS?

One last thing: if you've known Kristen for long enough, you've undoubtedly run into her alter ego "Jodii." To learn more, kindly follow @jodiicray on Instagram.

Kris, we'd crop your rasta head into our family photos any day of the week. If you're salty that we exposed you, we only have three words for you: "sorry 'bout it."

In the absence of a nice, clean starting point, let's just take you to the place where Kristen spends most of her time holed-up, watching One Direction videos on Youtube, surrounded by an army of crusty cereal bowls that she refuses to bring downstairs.

As you enter Kristen's bedroom (or tornado zone), you are greeted by a welcoming sign that reads: "Honestly do not even think of coming into my room. See you tomorrow maybe." But don't get the wrong idea: Kristen isn't nearly as intimidating as she might lead you to believe. She can befriend anyone—even a fly.

This lovable "Dot Rat" is full of paradoxes—I mean, have you met anyone who sends 400-second long mass Snapchats of her awful pop renditions and is also a pageant queen? Or someone who prides herself on a "Kylie Jenner style," but wears a duck-print onesie all weekend? Neither have we—except for Kristen, that is.

Plus, she's supremely talented. She can eat a chocolate glazed donut and a piece of pepperoni pizza just minutes before a swim meet, and still kill it in the 400-free relay. Her nose is a celebrity in and of itself: it seems to have no cartilage and can fit multiple blueberries in each nostril. She even has her own language!



# Is SIS Beneficial to Students?

## It is an Unnecessary Cause of Stress

By Terry Ni (II), Forum Editor

For the past two years, Student Information System (SIS) has loomed over us, warning us of every, even moderately, low grade. As diligent students, we are addicted to checking this system. Each time we log in, SIS advocates the notion that school is all about grades, rather than promoting growth and gain in knowledge. Since the advent of SIS, teachers have been burdened to learn new technology and students have grown stressed waiting for these teachers to input each score.

SIS does provide immediate information. Students, however, receive the same scores from their teachers on paper the next day, often with explanations and the exact questions that they answered wrong. As John Nguyen (IV), remarks, “It is nice to have, but it’s not necessary.” Oftentimes, students discover a low grade on SIS and worry about the cause of it all night, just to find out that the teacher had trouble entering grades.

On that note, many teachers consider SIS as a burden. As a relatively new program, the SIS interface is hard to use and instructions are unclear. Not only do mysterious bugs frequently appear, but the system is unclear on exactly which information only teachers can change and which information only the Registrar can change. Students asking to modify a small grade, such as attendance, are redirected into a maelstrom of confusion from the teacher to the Registrar, and then back again.

Most importantly, the majority of students at our school desire high grades. SIS lets us view instantly where we lose points, reminding us of the ever-present need to raise scores. As Natalia Sifnugel (II), states, “I feel that SIS is a little bit overwhelming. When I was in seventh and eighth grade, it was a lot less pressure because I wasn’t being reminded constantly of all the things I might worry about.” Education is supposed to promote learning, but SIS can lead students to believe that school is only about test and homework scores.

Teachers have trouble using SIS, and students feel stress from the ability to constantly access scores. The system, moreover, does not provide any information that students do not find out anyway. As Angeannie Lefevre (VI), asserts, “My opinion on SIS is that it just gives out too much information. I do care, but it just stresses me out.”

## It is Perfectly Suited for Students' Needs

By Ming Ying (II), Forum Editor

Cinderella was right: “You don’t know what you got ‘til it’s gone.”

In an online era when all the information we could dream of lingers at our fingertips, it is easy to become spoiled and unappreciative—to blame outside factors for our own circumstances. Recently, that finger-pointing has shifted towards Student Information System (SIS), a students’ encyclopedia that first launched in 2012. Cited for everything from causing stress to overwhelming students, many opponents of SIS ignore a fundamental idea: grades on SIS are a perfect reflection of students’ academic performance.

SIS itself does not cause any more stress than a cookbook that makes dishes magically appear. Regardless of the gradebook, everyone experiences a bad test day. Pre-SIS, students would have to manually keep every assignment in order to calculate their average. Now, grades are instantly posted, giving students the enhanced ability to weigh their grades against their expectations.

“It gives you peace of mind when you see things that go the way you want them to,” says Puneeth Pothireddy, (II).

Indeed, SIS delivers exactly what students require to stay up-to-date, a challenging task before its advent. Besides the obvious convenience of knowing grades, SIS offers a refresh of the daily bulletin, complete with important announcements and dates easily missed during homeroom.

“SIS gives neither too little nor too much information. It’s mediocre—enough to know what I need,” says Charles Valdez, (II).

Before SIS, students would often discover their grades too late—at the release of their report cards. By allowing students to easily access their scores, SIS increases student-teacher interaction and promotes conversation whenever a student has a question about an assignment.

“If anything, SIS should have more information on it,” says Cindy Nguyen, (II).

To be sure, it takes some time to adjust to SIS, but overall, it is one of the most effective ways to combine technology with education, facilitating the learning process. While not everyone may appreciate its benefits, we have all gained from SIS at some point: when a teacher posted an incorrect grade, when we learned about an upcoming event from the SIS homepage, or when we eagerly logged on to see our recent test grades. As for stress, it is a side effect of school, not SIS.



## Ask the Students: Is SIS Beneficial to Students?



Maryjane Crowley (I)

"Yes. Some teachers don't update SIS, but you have a record of your grades so you know when something goes wrong. It's like opening a Christmas present every time."



Mohamed Ibrahim (II)

"Yes and no, because you can see what you got on a test beforehand and relieves that stress. But at the same time, it causes stress because at the beginning of the term, grades are really inflated."



Richard Pan (III)

"No, because some teachers don't know how to use SIS, since sometimes, the grading system doesn't match up with SIS."

"Yes, because I can always keep track of my grades and if any of my grades are put in incorrectly, then I'll know what went wrong. Most teachers update it regularly, so I think it's good."



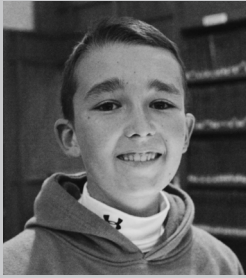
Janna Ramadan (IV)

"Yes, because you can stay updated with your grades and it lets you know if you have to talk to any teachers or make up any work."



Maia McGonagle (V)

"Yes, I think it is beneficial because when you want to know where you're at. You don't have to ask your teacher in person, so it's easy to just go on anytime to check your grades."



Gabriel Grimes (V)

## Sharing is Caring

By Mahlet Shiferaw (II), Contributing Writer

Of the many rules at our school, there are none quite as infuriating as that regarding shared lockers. As stated in the agenda book, “students are not allowed to store anything in another student’s locker.” What is the reasoning behind this? As any Boston Latin School (BLS) student can say from experience, this rule only serves to hinder our daily lives. It is, to put it lightly, an extreme inconvenience.

Many students will also agree that they see no problem in sharing lockers with others. As Tyrone Newell (I) said,

“If you trust them, then you should be able to let them use your locker if they need it, because it’s more convenient.” Convenient, that’s the keyword here. Many students would be very relieved just knowing they had an extra locker if they needed one. Some of that infamous BLS stress would be lifted off their shoulders, and their lives would become slightly less hurried as they realize they have a backup if they’re running late to that class on the third floor, or if they have a poster and there is not quite enough room in their own locker, or if they came

to school late and need somewhere to put their sports bag—the possibilities are endless.

So if only good can come out of sharing lockers, then why forbid it? There is, of course, that ever-present fear of theft. It is a reasonable fear, but not one that should stop students from sharing lockers. As Brian Regan (I) puts it, “It’s not a big deal if people aren’t taking things that don’t belong to them.” And that’s where the trust Tyrone Newell spoke of comes in: students should be able to judge for themselves whether or not they are able

to trust a friend. After all, BLS is supposed to prepare students for life beyond high school. It should not baby the students, who are, more often than not, capable of making such decisions. And if a theft does occur, it will be no one’s fault but that of the student—and of course, the culprit—for making an erroneous decision. As long as BLS steps back and lets the students take charge of their lockers, no one can hold it accountable for anything.

So please, make our lives just a tiny bit easier, and let us share our lockers. Sharing is caring, right?



# Free Wi-Fi is Not All That Free

By Chris Kim (II), Staff Writer



BLS - You might want to stay away from these Wi-Fi routers.

Going to Starbucks or Panera for their free Wi-Fi may not be such a good idea after all. Recent studies have shown that these free wireless connections have negative tolls on our health.

When Wi-Fi was first introduced, some people were

skeptical about the health effects of the Radiofrequency Radiation (RF)—and they were right. The World Health Organization (WHO) has classified wireless frequencies as a class 2B carcinogen, in the same category as lead and dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane

about this issue are finding it difficult to make headlines and grab the public’s attention since tangible evidence is kept hushed under the public’s radar. In extreme cases, some teachers have been warned that their job is in danger if they continue to raise concern about

(DDT), all of which are substances that cause cancer.

In response, the WHO established the International Electromagnetic Field (EMF) Project in 1996 to assess the scientific evidence of possible health effects caused by the radiation. Warnings about the potential hazards from Wi-Fi in school classrooms are now on the rise. But those who are concerned

Wi-Fi in schools.

According to a letter written to the editor that was printed in the October edition of the Alberta Teachers Association (ATA) news, schools were never informed about the dangerous effects of Wi-Fi.

David O. Carpenter M.D., director of the Institute for Health and Environment at the State University of New York, Albany, researched the effects of the radiofrequency radiation and wrote a letter to the District School Board urging them not to put Wi-Fi in any schools. He found evidence in his research that “water molecules in tissues and cells were highly agitated” by the presence of this radiation. He also found evidence suggesting that Wi-Fi increases absorption of microwave frequencies in brain tissue.

In fact, cell phones—infamous for emitting hazardous frequencies—pose a much

lower risk of inducing brain cancer and tumors since they are used only intermittently, whereas a Wi-Fi environment is continuous. In addition, Wi-Fi transmitters are primarily used indoors, putting everyone in the vicinity at risk—students and adults alike. Studies have also linked fatigue, neurological disorders and cardiac irregularities with Wi-Fi usage in students and staff members at schools.

There are alternatives, however, one of which is the use of hard-wired connections—signal dependent on cable wires rather than wireless signals. David O. Carpenter concludes in his study that “wired facilities do not generate RF radiations.” Convenience comes with a price, and sometimes it is better to go old school with the less advanced, bulky systems in order to ensure the safety of the students, teachers and the school.

## Crimes Under Influence

By Emily Xie (III), Staff Writer

A common defense strategy against criminal charges is claiming that the defendant committed the alleged crime under the influence of drugs or alcohol, meaning he or she cannot be held accountable for the crime as these substances severely impair mental functioning. Such was the defense strategy of Robel Phillipos, friend of the Boston Marathon bombing suspect. Charged with two counts of lying to federal officials, his defense team claimed he was “too high out of his mind” to know what he was doing. Although jurors rejected this idea, according to CBS News, it still poses an important question: should illegal activities conducted under the influence of drugs or alcohol be charged less heavily? The answer is no—intoxication should not be rewarded.

In Phillipos’ case, his claimed choice of drug was marijuana. According to a study conducted by Carl L. Hart titled “Effects of Acute Smoked Marijuana on Complex Cognitive Performance” published in Neuropsychopharmacology, acute marijuana smoking produces “minimal effects on complex cognitive task performance in experienced marijuana users.”

Another study titled “Acute Effects of Smoked Marijuana on Decision Making, as Assessed by a Modified Gambling Task, in Experienced Marijuana Users” concluded that “speed of performance on tests of executive function, but not accuracy, is disrupted in experienced marijuana users during marijuana intoxication.”

The two studies indicate that intoxication, while delaying mental processes, would not severely impair the quality of decision-making abilities; therefore, the defense that marijuana intoxication eliminates a specific intent is invalid in the case of experienced users.

Furthermore, another study titled “Marijuana, Alcohol, and Actual Driving Performance” published in Human Psychopharmacology said that while marijuana and alcohol impairs motor capabilities, subjects were conscious of their own impairment, indicated by self-evaluations of driving quality. If intoxicated individuals are even aware of their own inebriated state, this ascertains that while marijuana certainly does impair physical abilities and reaction timing, the actual calculative, complex mental processing is not affected.

There were no studies conducted on the effects of marijuana on inexperienced users or under extremely high dosages; however, one’s

abilities to make decisions before administering the drug are not impaired. Intake of illegal or legal intoxicators in large quantities is reckless and has the potential for serious consequences, considerations one has to keep in mind before subjecting oneself to severe intoxication.

Should one choose to impair one’s mental capacities, one should make cautious preparations to ensure that one will not harm others during the period of intoxication. A simple solution would be just to have a watch buddy to ensure one does not engage in reckless behavior.

According to the Law Offices of Russell J. Matson, Massachusetts law charges constructive manslaughter by motor vehicles with a minimum of five years in jail and a maximum of up to 20 years in prison. The maximum for motor vehicle homicide under the influence, however, is 15 years, and the minimum is only one year in a house of correction.

Whether the perpetrator is intoxicated or not when committing a crime, the consequence is the same. Intoxication level does not change the damage incurred. In the cases where there are victims, the victims are not provided with full justice if the offender is given a reduced sentence or merely a fine simply because he or she was under the influence, a result of the offender’s own poor decisions.

What is more concerning is that more lenient punishments for crimes committed under the influence provide a loophole for criminals who genuinely want to commit crimes. They can purposely intoxicate themselves before committing the crime because they know they can oftentimes receive reduced sentences in exchange for counseling or group therapy (e.g. Alcoholics Anonymous) meetings.

Rather than reducing sentences in exchange for attendance to group counseling meetings, offenders should attend such meetings or counselor sessions while serving the full sentence. This way the offender can both improve himself or herself while still serving the punishment he or she deserves.

While there is a common expression that “it’s the alcohol talking,” ultimately, it is one’s own decision to become intoxicated in the first place. Everyone should know his or her own limits and to extend oneself past these limits irresponsibly is one’s own fault. Should one decide to entertain this reckless decision, one must be prepared to face the full consequences of any subsequent actions.

## Spotlight on Clare Duckworth

By Katie Duckworth (I),  
Contributing Writer



she pranked me by putting “Mightier Duck” on the back of her Junior Powderpuff shirt while I had only put “Mighty Duck” on mine (as we had agreed we would do), I had to laugh—who can deny how funny she is?

Her taste in music is fantastic and almost universally envied. As a front-runner for the superlative “Life of the Party 2015,” she knew every song before it was popular and yet is cool enough to not tell you that she discovered that song you’re stoked about approximately six months ago.

Clare is fearless and persuasive. She easily convinced her very reluctant twin sister (me— if you didn’t know) to jump off a mountain in the French Alps with her for our sixteenth birthday. Clare wants to travel the world and when she puts her mind to something, it gets done; I’m sure she will be able to someday. This ability of Clare’s to push through any obstacle will make her successful in whatever she decides to do with her life.

Personally, I know I will go through Clare-withdrawal next year. She puts everything she has into her friendships and I’m sure other people will also feel a piece of their hearts amiss when she leaves us next August for whatever stellar college she’s sure to get into.

Clare, my dear “twinnie,” the Thing One to my Thing Two, the Mary-Kate to my Ashley, good luck with the rest of your senior year and know that I will be there every step of the way. If you ever need someone to lean on, you know where to find me—in the room next to yours.

I’m proud to say that I’ve known Clare Elizabeth McCarthy Duckworth—the living legend herself—literally since the womb. While the rest of us were awkwardly struggling to make friends sixie year, Clare, having recently grown out her childhood bowl cut (she totally rocked it), took her rightful place as “the original LG.”

With as many Instagram likes as a current freshman or sophomore and too many friends in Boston Latin School’12 to count, Clare paved the way for LGs everywhere. Like a true pioneer, she ventured through the treacherous and then mysterious halls of BLS with as much grace and confidence as any “Duck” ever had or will. She has waited many long years to claim the coveted title of “senior” and, having watched more friends than most people will ever have graduate high school, her time has come.

Those of you who are unfortunate enough to not know who Clare is, she is a better Red from Orange is the New Black than Red herself, and is the semiofficial DJ at possibly every party the senior class has ever thrown. Her sense of humor and ability to poke fun at herself have made her one of the most beloved members of the senior class. Even when



# Common Core: Bad for BLS

By Greta Gaffin (II), Contributing Writer

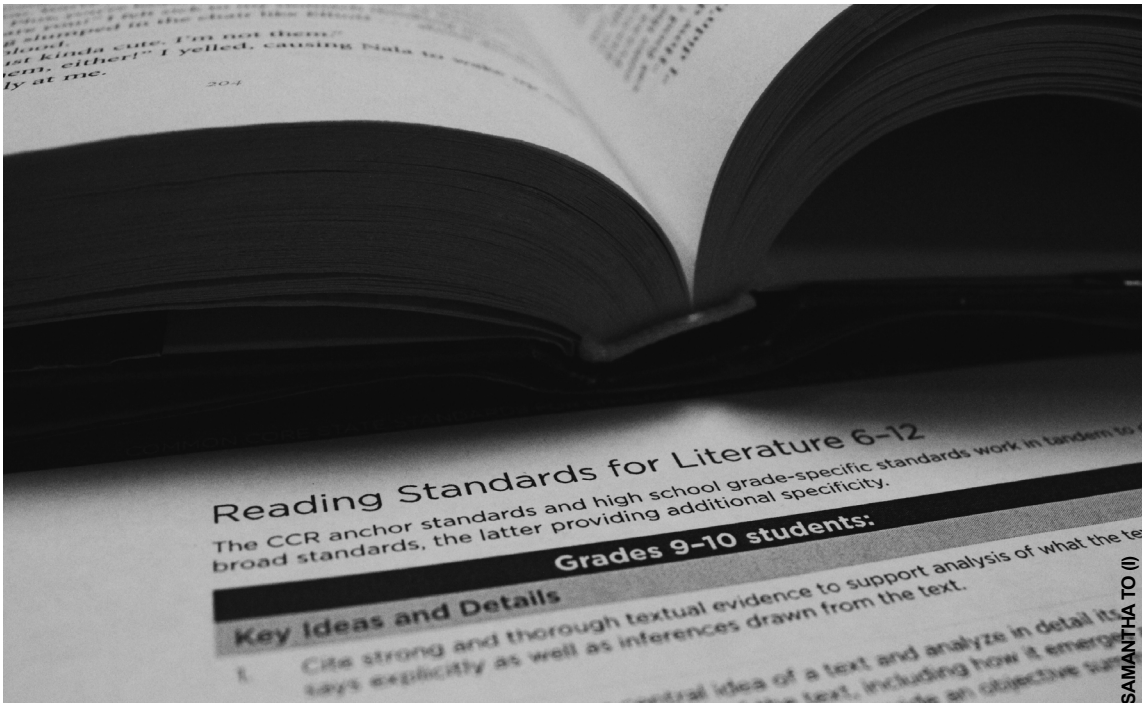
The Common Core State Standards Initiative, or “Common Core,” is a new set of national educational standards designed to improve American students' abilities in English and mathematics. The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) test, which some Boston Latin School (BLS) students had the opportunity to take last year, is a Common Core based exam. These standards are being gradually implemented in a number of states, including Massachusetts.

While the American educational system has often been dragged as a failure, Massachusetts serves as an example of educational excellence in America. According to Forbes Magazine, if Massachusetts were a country, it would be fourth in the world for reading (tied with Hong Kong), and ninth in mathematics (tied with Japan) - places which are frequently associated with educational excellence. Massachusetts also has higher literacy rates and a higher percentage of people with bachelor's degrees than the rest of the United States. BLS is one of the leaders in higher quality

education; with extremely high Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) pass rates and college acceptance rates. Why should BLS have to change what works? If a school can be exempt from city graduation requirements by developing its own list of required courses that are approved for the public by Boston Public Schools (BPS)—schools such as BLS—why are these schools not also exempt from the Common Core?

Teachers, too, have apprehensions. Mrs. Davis, who teaches Advanced Algebra 2, Advanced Precalculus, Calculus, and AP Calculus, holds her reservations. “We don't quite have the technology yet,” she says.

Those who took the PARCC test know that Common Core tests are done on the computer. BLS may have many computers, but not enough for everyone in each grade to take an online test simultaneously. Dividing the test by several homerooms at a time would also result in a much greater disruption of classes than the MCAS does, especially since juniors and seniors, who take a greater variety of classes, must also take



BLS - Remember these requirements on the back of the syllabi? They shouldn't be there.

the test. The other option of buying enough computers would be quite costly—even 200 new computers would cost upwards of 40,000 dollars.

There is also the issue of implementing this all at the same time for everyone.

“Overall it's a good idea... if all the students I'm receiving have the same things down,” says Mrs. Gribaudo, who teaches Algebra 1 and Algebra 2.

In a school where some students are already at extremely different ends of the English and

mathematics ability spectrum, Common Core would create an even greater divide, particularly in math, which is more cumulative than English.

The other problem with Common Core is that it focuses only on English and mathematics, to the detriment of other subjects, similar to the No Child Left Behind Act, which is the standards act that gave us MCAS. And due to the cost for new textbooks and training in addition to new computers, that means something has to give.

“Obviously the arts will continue to be the first program to be cut,” says Ms. Walshak, who teaches Fundamentals of Visual Art.

Common Core is supposed to prepare students for college, but what about students who want to major in music or art?

Perhaps Common Core will be a boon in eight years or so, but for now, at BLS and other schools in Massachusetts as a whole, it will prove to be only a nuisance.

## Spotlight on Gen Dougherty

By Rachel Yee (I), Contributing Writer



Genevieve Rose Dougherty. The Townie Sailing Queen. Lover of every Disney movie to exist and die hard Minion fan. Yes, that 5'9" Blonde Mermaid that got 500 likes on a promposal Instagram. The ONLY senior you'd see with an alligator lunch bag. She loves to bake and if you ever sleep over, she will wake up early to make you a mean bacon, egg and cheese for breakfast.

The first time we met was during summer orientation, where she held a Regina George facial expression for the week because her whole family went to Disney World and left her behind. #TheStruggleWasReal. Although Gen is taller, older and smarter than I am, we are practically sisters. I own half of her bed and all her Patagonias. Eve, Gen's mom, has truly made me feel like a part of their family. Even my dad has adopted Gen as a fourth daughter. When she isn't sleeping over, he automatically assumes that we've gotten into an argument (which rarely, if ever, happens).

Our friendship has been filled with crazy adventures: from riding the party bus, to going to the Factory of Terror, to binge-watching Grey's or Dexter, to going to bachata and waltz

dance lessons, to tanning with carrot oil for hours, to crying about not being able to see each other over the summer, to throwing me into the biting-cold water in Humarock, to forcing me to read my summer reading book in the hundred degree heat so she could exercise outside, to attempting to flip over a golf cart that I was sitting in, to many more unforgettable memories. Gen always tells it like it is and that's how we became attached at the hip. We have even planned out our future living next door to each other on farms in South Carolina.

Gen is MY PERSON. She is the Christina Yang to my Meredith Grey. She is the most strong-willed, classy, goofy and modest lady I have ever met. She loves singing with her hairbrush and getting a good laugh out of you. If you see Gen in the hallway, please say hello and tell her you are a little Minion that I sent, BUT, if you have the guts, slap her textbooks right out of her hands or throw them across the hall. I promise she'll put on the Regina George face, but just think of it as payback since she dropped and shattered my iPhone. Plus, you could always run before she sees your face.

Next year, wherever Gen ends up, majoring in environmental science or marine biology and minoring in psych, people will truly be blessed to be receiving such an amazing soul with great qualities. We haven't even left yet and I already miss you. Love you forever and always!

## Should We Keep the Daily Bulletin?

By Minh Trinh (II), Assistant Forum Editor

The Daily Bulletin, the primary source of information where all students learn about upcoming events happening at the school. Distributed among the teachers at the beginning of the day, the Daily Bulletin was created to be read at the beginning of homeroom so that students are aware of sports games, trips to foreign countries, important tests and other upcoming events. The Daily Bulletin should be read every day, and heard by attentive students, in order to be an effective way of communicating information to the masses.

The problem with the Daily Bulletin, however, is its implementation. The majority of people at Boston Latin School view the Daily Bulletin as unimportant because few people pay attention to what is in the Bulletin. Why is this so, when there is so much important information in the Daily Bulletin?

The Daily Bulletin fails to draw the attention of the student body, which is the target audience of the Bulletin. It lacks noticeable appeal; therefore students, who are usually already distracted by the allure of 10 minutes of extra sleep or unfinished homework, choose not to pay attention.

Currently, teachers have been chosen to read the Daily Bulletin to students. Teachers, however, lack the necessary enthusiasm to capture the attention of students, particularly early in the morning. In monotone voices, the Bulletin is swiftly read, with little attention paid to detail, for the sole purpose of finishing the Bulletin before homeroom ends so that the teacher may return to preparing for the next class.

Occasionally, even the teacher fails to see the importance of the Daily Bulletin. Either out of forgetfulness or pure obliviousness to the existence of the Daily Bulletin, a few teachers have chosen to scrap the Daily Bulletin altogether, choosing not to read it during homeroom. Others have chosen to allow students to read the Daily Bulletin during homeroom, choosing not

to devote their precious time to what seems to be a wasteful use of homeroom.

“In the past, teachers didn't [read the bulletin]. If the teachers read it, it would be useful,” says Kevin Su (I).

Of course, although the implementation of the Daily Bulletin is ineffective, the Daily Bulletin is definitely a good idea. The purpose behind the Daily Bulletin is to inform the student population about the events happening at BLS. From sports games, to Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Tests (PSATs) to fundraisers, all of these things and more can be found in the Daily Bulletin. There are few other ways to learn of these events, other than from the Daily Bulletin.

“I think it's a useful way for students to get up-to-date knowledge about the school,” says Jackie Che (II).

Evidently, some students agree that the Daily Bulletin is a good way to inform fellow students about upcoming events. The administration simply needs to find a more engaging, appealing way to communicate information in the Bulletin to the students.

“If someone read the Bulletin over the intercom, it would be more useful,” says Jacquelyn Ho (II).

The idea of reading the Daily Bulletin over the intercom ensures that all students are able to hear the Bulletin and all students hear of current events happening at the school. Another solution to the issue of appeal would be to revamp BLSTV so that the Bulletin may be read during a television broadcast. Not only does this ensure that all students hear the Bulletin, but it is a more creative way of reading the Bulletin.

It is up to the administration to change the way the Bulletin is read to students. It remains clear, however, that the Daily Bulletin cannot retain its current form. Otherwise, students will continue to ignore something that should be seen as very important.



# Baker's Plan Doesn't Benefit Students

By Lily Doyle (IV), Contributing Writer

On November 4, Republican businessman Charlie Baker was elected Governor of Massachusetts. When he takes office in January 2015, he will replace Democrat Deval Patrick, giving Massachusetts a “divided government,” with a Democratic legislature and a Republican executive, for the first time in eight years.

What will this change mean for the youth of the Commonwealth? Governor-elect Baker’s published plan for changes to higher education is probably the biggest clue to how his administration thinks about youth and their futures.

Although elementary and high school educations are purviews of local municipalities, Baker has criticized the current state of education in the Commonwealth, charging that “our public higher education system has some glaring weaknesses with respect to completion rates, affordability and responsiveness to the needs of employers. We can do better.”

Beyond his lofty platitude, he suggests that low-performing schools borrow innovations from schools that perform better and that more charter schools be established.

With regard to higher education, over which a Governor does have some influence and power, on June 23, 2014, Baker released a



Massachusetts - Gov. Deval Patrick greets Governor-elect Charlie Baker

plan he said was aimed “to tackle the cost of higher education and expand opportunities for college students.” In order to make higher education more affordable for high school graduates, Baker wants to encourage online learning, establish paid co-op programs or internship experiences and provide degrees in three years rather than the traditional four.

Online learning can be a convenient and affordable choice for students, but the quality of education is often bland. One’s college years have traditionally been a time for exploration and reflection as well as socialization.

Much of classroom learning comes from the give-and-take discussion with both the instructor

and one’s classmates. How can one imitate the social experience of college learning with a computer? In an age where each of us is increasingly tied to individual electronic devices, this sounds like a solution to a problem that doesn’t really exist.

Governor-elect Baker’s plan sacrifices the traditional liberal arts education that has been the foundation of western higher education since the founding of BLS for a business-driven model of jobs training.

Co-ops, collaborations between colleges and businesses, are no improvement to education either. Baker claims that they would funnel newly-minted graduates to much-needed jobs. This is

where he shows his “true colors” as a businessman rather than an advocate for education. College is supposed to be a place of learning, not a training ground meant to supply businesses with cheap labor. High school and college should be true educational experiences.

During this time, students should discover themselves and their personal philosophies. Aside from lost time and focus, such a plan adds the stress of work to the normal stress of school life. Baker’s proposal only benefits businesses while it short-changes young learners.

Paid internships are often thought to be beneficial, especially because 66 percent of Mas-

sachusetts college students have education-related debt in excess of \$28,000, according to the Project on Student Debt. However, this prescription also seems somewhat short-sighted and geared to the needs of businesses rather than students.

I think such programs might be beneficial in a student’s junior or senior year of college, when they have some idea of a career goal, but not earlier.

His plan to offer an Associate’s Degree after high school, or to “complete” college in three years, doesn’t allow students the time or space they need to think, reflect and decide for themselves what they want for a future.

Baker should focus more on providing summer jobs. They are the perfect opportunity for students to get work experience without interfering with their educational experiences. BLS even offers workshops that help students obtain jobs.

For those of us with the luxury of attending BLS, Governor-elect Baker’s plans may not be totally relevant. Most of us will attend four year colleges and will enter careers we’ve been lucky enough to choose. We should fight politically to insure that others get those same options by making four-year public colleges more affordable for all the students of the Commonwealth.

## Ask the Omnipotent She-Wolf

Dear Omnipotent She-Wolf,

I’m a sixie parent trying to force some organization on my little angel. Ever since he got to BLS, he can’t keep track of any of his homework. All he wants to do is mess around in the fourth floor pool! I’m worried that if he doesn’t get an A in Fundamentals of Music, he won’t get into a good college. Do you have any advice for me about how to keep him in line?

—Muddled Out of My Mind

Dear MOM,

Not to fear! As an all-knowing animal, I’m naturally abreast of the latest developments in social media—and I think that Twitter holds your answer. Ever heard of starter packs? I’ve seen several floating around which undoubtedly hold the key to success for your darling son. If a picture can speak 1000 words, then four pictures are surely enough to keep him “fly” while making sure his grades are top-notch.

Dear Omnipotent She-Wolf,

I recently lost my job as the school advice columnist. No one likes your anonymous advice and, quite frankly, I know I can do a lot better. Can I fight you to get my job back?

—Heated and Unimpressed by your Ridiculous Trash

Dear HURT,

I understand why you want to drop the gloves, but before you get as irrational as a man fighting K-O the Kangaroo at an Australian travelling circus, let me give you a few pointers. My first word of advice would be not to cross me; I’ve gone toe-to-toe with K-O in the Sydney Opera House. Secondly: if by the word “fight,” you meant that we are going to have a heated intellectual discussion with quick, witty responses, then by the end, I’d still be the one writing the responses.

Dear Omnipotent She-Wolf,

I’m not doing very well in my Latin class, mainly because I’m finding it hard to grasp the new material presented to me. This class is getting overwhelming! Do you have any advice on how to pass this difficult class?

—Crying Over Nonsensical Caesar Every R2 in Never-Ending Despair

Dear CONCERNED,

Sorry, Bud, can’t help you there.

Dear Omnipotent She-Wolf,

I recently started an Instagram account, but I’m not getting enough likes on my pictures. Do you have any suggestions to get more people to double-tap my posts?

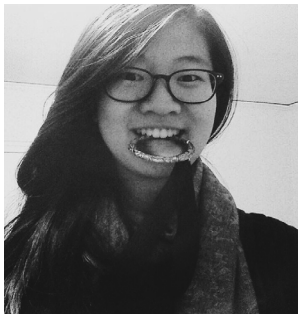
—Stunning And Distraught

Dear SAD,

I too used to struggle with this problem, but then I reassessed the situation using Leibniz’s Instagram formula and everything finally started making sense. The first step was to substitute my variable “x” for “an outfit, preferably one purchased at a consignment store that is widely considered artsy.” The second step is to change the setting of the picture to a place that is generally referred to as “hipster” or “alternative” (Davis Square, JP Licks, Chuck E. Cheese etc.); this will make you seem cooler than someone who just takes selfies in her bedroom. Then snap a few pics, pick the second best one, give it an obnoxious filter, a self-deprecating yet humorous caption, an intentionally vague hashtag, and finally, an emoji that seems somewhat out of place. This formula is bulletproof —214 likes, guaranteed!

## Spotlight on Julia Pan

By Connie Chang (I)  
Contributing Writer



She’s going to kill me for making this overdone joke, but it’s official: I’m Julia Pansexual, and if you knew her, you’d be too.

I met Julia in eighth grade. I thought she was one thing; she turned out to be a complete other. Julia embodies her laugh: she comes out of nowhere and overwhelms. Beneath her unassuming exterior lies a television geek, a soulful singer, an ardent activist, an organic yogurt slurper and a supportive friend. She’s the realist to my optimist, and the anchor to my ship: she keeps the people around her grounded. Plus, she’s not the type to hog the spotlight, which is partly why I think people don’t give her enough credit, but seriously, she deserves a thousand accolades for her accomplishments and the obstacles she’s overcome.

First off, her sense of style is worth a hundred thousand notes on Tumblr. For real. If you’ve ever seen her dress up, you’d know that she’s a walking, talking photoset of spiffy bow ties and classy suspenders. I’ll never forget the time I wore a button-up shirt to Latin class and complained about needing an ac-

cessory. Julia whipped out a box labeled “emergency bow tie” and proffered its contents to me. How awesome is that?

Secondly, I couldn’t ask for a realer friend to chill with. When she speaks her mind, it’s a refreshing whirlwind of brutal honesty. It’s rare to find someone who will be nakedly truthful with you. I know that she holds her tongue because she worries she’ll offend people or hurt their feelings, but I wish she’d be forthright more often! The world would only benefit from her opinion. Moreover, she is so brave. I am honored that she’s picked me to share some of her deeper thoughts with.

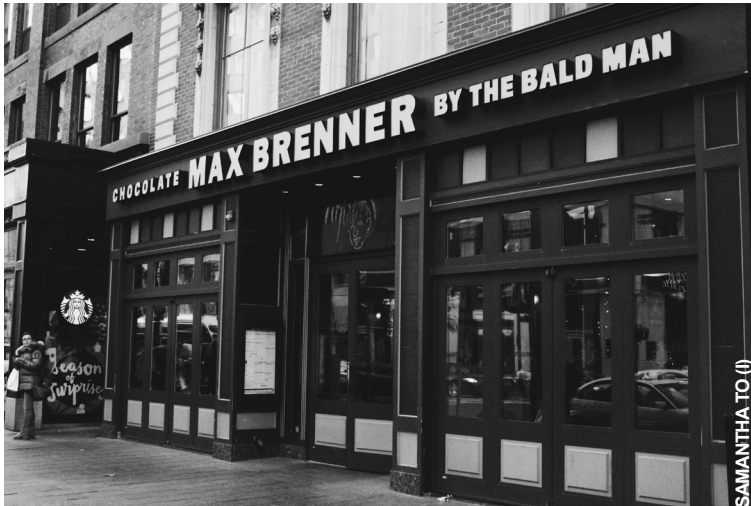
Finally, Julia is a deft thinker. I’m sure her thought process must resemble the quicksilver glittering of constellations—unpredictable and unfathomable, but awe-inspiring to watch. I can’t count the times she’s broken off, mid-sentence, to interject a new thought of her own, only to discount it as quickly as it had come and introduce another novel idea. Personally, I love this quirk: it’s a part of what makes Julia so uniquely Julia.

She is, without a doubt, that special type of person that comes along once every ten years. I find it difficult to capture the essence of her persona in five hundred words, but I do know this: there may be 30 million results on Google for a Julia Pan, but only one of them is *the* Julia Pan, and I am lucky to call myself her friend.



# A Chocolate Lover's Dream

By Francesca Davy-Falconi (III) & Samantha Gomes (III), Contributing Writers



**Back Bay** - It's a real world Wonka's factory for all the chocolate lovers out there.

As soon as you walk through the doors of Max Brenner on Boylston Street, you are greeted by the succinctly satisfying smell of chocolate. This little gem has a menu packed with delicacies that will

be sure to satisfy your sweet tooth, as well as any other teeth you may have. We took a seat in our comfy old-fashioned wooden chairs and were handed our menus, jam-packed with all the exces-

sive necessities: cheesy mac and cheese, savory sandwiches with waffles as a substitute for buns and, of course, chocolate. It's a chocolate lovers dream, but perhaps with a slight twist. While the restaurant's ambiance and decor might be priceless, the food certainly isn't. By this, we mean, if you are a perpetually broke teenager, it's going to be quite a stretch on the wallet, so if you do visit, be sure to bring along someone who's decently well-stocked in the cash department (e.g. mother, father, older sister or brother, friend or foe). The food, however, is well worth the money, at least in part due to the artistic way in which it is presented. We had waffles and a crepe, respectively, but these weren't just any breakfast foods. These were the breakfast foods of

Michelangelo's dreams, each complete with an immaculate snowfall of powdered sugar and drizzles of chocolate sauces. It's completely safe to say they wouldn't have looked out of place at the Museum of Fine Arts. Nonetheless, it was love at first bite for each of us. The crepe provided an explosion of strawberries, chocolate and something a little unidentifiable but definitely sweet. Are there other crepes that are better out there? Perhaps. But did that matter in the moment when taking those amazing bites into the classic French pancake? No, because if it wasn't the best, it was pretty darn close. So rich is this strawberry hazelnut crepe that you may even find yourself unable to finish. It's a great thing, however, to take home for later snacking. As for the tutti frutti waffles (a fun thing to say but better to eat), they are definitely a must have. Topped with mixed berries, some milk chocolate

ganache, ice cream and chocolate crunch, these waffles will be sure to leave you coming back for more. While we wish we could try everything that Max Brenner offered, our experience there was nothing less than out of this world. The service was practically impeccable, as were, coincidentally, the waiter's eyebrows. Of course, there was a little bit of a wait for our food but it was expected, since the restaurant was at its busiest during the afternoon hours, and nearly every table was filled. Clearly, people love their chocolate. Here, you don't have to abide by the rule of waiting to eat your dessert after dinner. So, next time you find yourself on Boylston Street and the chilly Boston weather has you looking for something to warm your soul and satisfy your never-ending chocolate craving, stop by Max Brenner's and treat yourself to a little bit of heaven on earth.

# A Brazen Blazing of British Literature

By Nate Krieger (II), Staff Writer

Alice in Wonderland? More like Shmalice in Shmunderland! It may be a "famous" "book", but Lewis Carroll's plot has more holes in it than a hipster's ear. For starters, there is something very wrong with this Alice kid. Seriously, I mean she may, on occasion, get lost in a satirical fantasy land, but that seems to be the least of her problems. I mean, who looks at a rabbit hole and says "Oh, I'll dive in there?" It's a rabbit hole! Assuming you can fit—which you shouldn't be able to, for the record, it's AT LEAST three sizes too small—what are you expecting besides a monumental amount of tiny poops and ferocious breeding? BEST case scenario: you DON'T get mauled by tiny rabbit claws. You think they're going to be happy about you invading their home?

Honestly, I'd say it was an amazing

stroke of luck that the hole turned out to be the most unrealistic hole in history because clearly there's a serious lack of knowledge here about what a hole is supposed to look like. And speaking of which, how deep is that hole?!? I'm beginning to realize that this story isn't supposed to be entirely factual, Lewis, but please at least take into account the composition of the earth's crust. For the speed and time at which she is falling, she should AT LEAST be in the upper mantle by now. Take an earth science class for goodness sake! After that, the book just falls apart. Changing size? Talking animals? Flamingos as croquet mallets (does the concept of an endangered species mean nothing to you?!?). Honestly, Lewis, you're lucky your audience is mostly children because any self-respecting adult would toss this thing

into a fire. Normally, I'm only for book burning on Christmas and Labor Day, but in this case I'd be more than willing to make an exception. And speaking of exceptions, you know what else is exceptionally second-rate? This little "play" I recently read, pompously entitled: The Tragedy of Julius Caesar. Shakespeare may be called, on occasion, one of the greatest playwrights of all time, but in this case he's a playWRONG. For starters, if you're going to name a play after a character, a famous character, is it really such a smart move to kill him off so quickly? If the play's going to be about the aftermath of Caesar's death, call it that! Call it anything else! And you call that a ghost scene? C'mon! If I hear there's a ghost in a play, I expect it to be scary! It didn't make any classic ghost noises! The only "boos" I heard

were coming from me! I mean, "Friends, Romans, countrymen?" The Romans are his countrymen! What country does he think he's in? He's either being deliberately redundant (which I wouldn't put past him, I mean this guy is more boring than a history class exclusively about paint drying), or he doesn't realize the emperor of Rome actually lived in Rome. Is this really who they want in charge? Seriously, if they're willing to kill people in order to make Rome a better place, they stopped waaaaaayyy too soon. And I think they accidentally killed their sense of fun too. I'm not surprised this "Shakespeare" fellow isn't alive anymore. He probably died of boredom proofreading his own work! The real tragedy of this play is the fact that I had to read it. More fuel for the pyre, Mr. Caesar.

# 2014: AN INTERSTELLAR ODYSSEY

By John DiGiacomo (III) & Daniel Volfson (III), Contributing Writers

When's the last time you've looked up at the sky wondering what's out there? A couple weeks ago, the new sci-fi epic Interstellar, written and directed by popular filmmaker Christopher Nolan (The Dark Knight, Inception) opened in theatres worldwide, taking audiences on a journey into the deep realms of space. Interstellar takes place in an apocalyptic near-future where a plague has decimated most of the earth's crops. With the last of the crops dying out, an engineer and three scientists are sent out on a quest to find a habitable planet outside of Earth's solar system. Although the premise appears to have that stereotypical "save the world" doomsday feel to it, the movie is filled with many unexpected twists and authentic scientific concepts from the works of theoretical physicist Kip Thorne (who served as an executive producer) that thicken its complexity. In addition to this, the movie boasts an excellent cast of actors who help move the story along. This includes Academy Award winners Matthew McConaughey (Dallas Buyers Club), Anne Hathaway (Les Misérables), and Matt Damon, whose role was kept secret until the film's



**An Unspecified Galaxy** - Interstellar features the most scientifically accurate visualization of a black hole to date.

release. Many other recognized stars also appear throughout this nearly three hour film. Besides an impressive cast, the score of "Interstellar," composed by Hans Zimmer, is not only pleasing to the ears, but also, in a sense, tells the story on its own. "Interstellar has the tightest bond between music and image that we've yet achieved," commented Nolan. Even though the film's buzz before its release made it sound promising, many critics have felt that it simply was not as great as it ought to have been.

Andrew O'Hehir of Salon.com said, "Interstellar is thrilling to watch across its moments but ultimately unmemorable; I feel it slipping away from me even now." Some believed the contrary, however. "Christopher Nolan reaches for the stars in Interstellar— and delivers a soulful, must-see masterpiece, one of the most exhilarating film experiences so far this century," stated Lou Lumenick of the New York Post. The film's scientific accuracy has also been a subject of much scrutiny. Despite some supposed inconsistencies,

many renowned people have defended the film. Astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson shared some tweets saying that Interstellar allows audience members to experience science in ways "no other feature film" has shown before. Despite a mix of opinions, Interstellar has been received overwhelmingly well by the public, receiving solid audience ratings on websites such as Rotten Tomatoes and Internet Movie Database (IMDb). Also, in the midst of not so "stellar" reviews, it has still fared well at the box office. Due to the underwhelming first reviews, we were pleasantly surprised to come across a film that not only surpassed the boundaries of science fiction, but also masterfully blended post-modern science with a subtle commentary on human nature. The film touches upon themes that deal with family, love, sacrifice and the meaning of human existence. No matter what your feelings are towards the film, by the time the end credits roll, you will find your hands fixed in applause with the rest of the theater as Nolan has provided the world with one of the most ambitious and thought-provoking films of the decade.



# Bright Matter at the MFA

By Elisabeth Kotsalidis (II) & Leo Gearin (IV), Contributing Writers



MFA - Ordinary objects become extraordinary creations in this exhibit.

You might pass by the Museum of Fine Arts (MFA) countless times during your commute to and from Boston Latin School. Maybe you think of it as a tourist attraction or a place where older people leisurely stroll around and observe each piece of art. As you walk past the doors of the MFA, you hold strong to the idea that in there, you will only find ancient sculptures, antique vases, paintings of colonial life or lilies by Monet.

If you dare to enter, how-

ever, you will immediately be greeted by something entirely unique, something unlike anything else in the entire museum. In bold letters, the door reads, *Shinique Smith: BRIGHT MATTER*. Step across that threshold and into the gallery and you will find yourself transported into a contemporary art wonderland.

Immediately upon entering, there is the sense that there was significant attention paid to the placement of the works in the gallery.

“All of the works can stand alone, but together they help choreograph where our eyes land, how our bodies feel pulled or rested in front of works,” says Jen Mergel, Beal Senior Curator of Contemporary Art at the MFA, who works closely with the artist Shinique Smith.

Placed as punctuation in the gallery are large bales of used clothing and other items. You can find many clothing items that you may recognize from different stores, or even your own wardrobe, packed into these bales. You cannot help but be amazed that such casual items wound up in an art installation at the MFA. Looking at these bales, you may wonder, “Who owned these items, and where did they come from?”

“The items within them [the bales] come foremost from my own closet, family and friends, department stores and secondhand shops. The items within them are assembled with the same eye for detail as my collaged paintings. They can be viewed as a singular composition or the detail of their individual parts,” Smith states.

From certain points of the

gallery, a soft, barely audible humming can be heard. It draws you closer and closer to it until you finally step into the room from which the sound is emitted. You find that there is little physical matter in the space, yet it is filled with sound and a dusky light.

“I wanted to create an installation that was more experiential and to make a full space without much in it. I knew I wanted to work with light and shadow,” Smith states about *The Breath and The Line* installation.

Inside, the lights are dimmed. Sounds of humming and the recitation of a soundtrack intermingle. A refreshing scent fills your nostrils. Lining the walls are mirrors with swirling black lines sprawled across their reflective surfaces, casting mesmerizing shadows on the walls.

“It is both rough and refined, alluding both to a cathedral apse and a graffiti-covered restroom—both spaces one might go to recompose oneself. And the soundtrack and scent might give the idea that someone else has been there before you, perhaps to find herself as well,” Mergel says about both the space and the purpose behind it.

The unintimidating environment of Smith’s gallery is created by the use of familiar objects such as a *Cat in the Hat* stuffed toy

and Paul Frank pajamas. Shinique’s exhibit contains common items that you do not expect to see in a museum environment, yet they fit right in nonetheless.

“She equally values and shares beauty from all sources, whether considered high culture, from the sidewalk, from a meadow or a glacier walk,” Mergel says of Smith’s artwork.

Most of the canvases not only have paint on them, but also cloth and ribbons, bunched up into mounds or spilling off the sides, giving the artwork a depth and complexity that paint alone could not capture. Bold strokes of black calligraphy seem to pop up often in her works of art. The pieces ooze youth and energy with their bright, saturated colors and busy patterns.

“My childhood and teens influence my work a great deal. I think these experiences and influences last our whole lives. I see this as the time of firsts, the time of discovering our individual minds and personal power,” says Smith.

It can be a daunting task to sort through Smith’s exhibit at first, but once you do, you feel right at home amidst items that you may even find in your own house, but presented in unexpected ways.

The exhibit lasts until March 1, 2015.

## A Great Improv It Was

By Bill Hart (I), Contributing Writer

Exactly 85 years after the Museum of Modern Art was first opened to the public, a talented group of Boston Latin School students paid tribute to the performing art of improvisational comedy. This particular improv troupe (loosely based on a 1966 Beatles album) put on a performance (loosely based on the modern version of a Gaelic Samhain), which they called “It’s a Great Improv, Charlie Brown.” A fantastic testament to the power of creativity and making things up on the fly, the show was a huge success. At no time was this more apparent than the moment co-captain, Nate Krieger (II), started what those in the improv world call an “octopus.” In this game, the talented and (according to Max Aboko-Cole’s (II) mom’s friend) “handsome” junior crafted an initial scene, where a group of improvisers met in a sauna. That initial scene would eventually spur spin-off scenes, creating

a story structure resembling an octopus. Though Nate Krieger’s octopus had the audience in a fit of uproarious laughter, the German-born improviser was not completely satisfied, because the subject of the crowd’s affection in this scene was not the handsome director, but rather Malcolm “X” Doremus Cuetara (I) playing the instant-classic role of Todd. Malcolm somehow managed to sneak his character into every tentacle of the octopus, always pleasing the crowd when, in any given situation, Todd would sit down, unfurl his imaginary towel, and nonchalantly tilt his head back as if he were still in the sauna that his wife had led him into, just hours before their wedding. The most amazing thing about “Mr. Krieger’s stolen octopus,” however, was that it only constituted about ten minutes of the entire show. In another game, laughter filled the black box as Gus “McCormack” Viveiros

(II) and Peter “Angus” Shanahan (II) used their Scottish brogues to claim the moon for both the east and west sides of their beloved motherland. The first Scotsmen on the moon set aside their geographic differences to share a packet of space haggis, while they planted the flags of their respective regions in the dark volcanic lunar maria of Earth’s natural satellite. Shortly after the two young men claimed the moon for the northernmost fourth of the United Kingdom, Rowen Halpin (I) seemed to do the impossible by perfectly decoding Malcolm DC’s fluent Swedish. When asked if she had prior experience interpreting the Scandinavian language, the talented improviser responded by saying “I wish I could say I did, because that would be awesome, but no.” In another exercise, Halpin joined up with fellow co-captain Connie Chang (I) to form a conjoined twin going on a “double” date

with another set of identical twins joined in utero. The pair had the tough task of saying the exact same thing at the exact same time, but to everyone’s surprise, the duo, comedically joined at the hip, spoke eloquently. The fourth, and arguably most illustrious, co-captain, Brandon Shave (I), spends one-seventh of his day being an art history aficionado and one-fifth of his week being the Babe Ruth of improv. In the Siamese twin sketch, he brilliantly traded off words with Nate Krieger to bring “The House That Gels Built” to the ground. I believe that the great late Robin Williams put it best when he said “Improv, sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn’t, but when it does, it’s like open-field running.” The Yellow Submarine Improv Troupe was certainly open-field running on Friday November 7, like a pack of wolves grazing the fields of Northern Scotland, on the hunt for laughter.

## The Best Scorpion Since Mortal Kombat

By Nujat Chowdhury (IV), Contributing Writer

Looks like Sherlock isn’t the only emotionally-lacking genius in town...

Or rather, on television.

On September 22, CBS launched a new television series, among many others, by the name of Scorpion, developed by Nick Santora.

Essentially, it stars a group of four prodigies, an agent of United States Homeland Security, and a formerly broke waitress.

Wait, what?

Yeah, a broke waitress.

Scorpion is about a team that was thrown together by Cabe Gallows (Robert Patrick), the Homeland Security guy, which was originally made up of Walter O’Brien (Elyes Gabel), who has the fourth highest intelligent quotient ever recorded at 197, Sylvester Dodd (Ari Stidham), who is a “human calculator” and has obsessive compulsive disorder and anxiety, Happy Quinn (Jadyn Wong), “a mechanical prodigy” and the only

female genius here, and Toby Curtis (Eddie Kaye Thomas), the “behaviorist”, who has a gambling problem. Later in the pilot episode, Paige (Katharine McPhee), our former broke waitress and her genius son join the team, and she “translates the world for them”.

All put together, this show is off to an incredible start; even though these guys are impossibly smart, they get no respect like the guys on typical cop shows. Like in episode six “True Colors”, no one believes O’Brien when he declares (and proves!) the priceless painting they’re supposed to be protecting is a fake until a Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agent comes in and confirms it. It goes to show that brains really don’t give you everything.

The script itself is just, for a lack of a better adjective, “on point”, as many people would say. As mentioned before, O’Brien can be considered the American equivalent to the British Broadcasting Corporation’s

Sherlock: witty remarks and awkward instances when it comes to emoting. Seriously, this guy got arrested by the FBI when he was 11, because he hacked the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to get their blueprints for his bedroom wall, but he can’t comprehend the fact that he’s got the hots for Paige!

#Waige.

Who ships it?

Admit it, you already do.

Their individual personalities blend nicely, even though they’re all so different. They could easily think they’re capable of working alone, but they chose to work all together, under the command of O’Brien. They’re not all business: they do poke fun at each other (as much as they can anyways, since all of them except Paige and maybe Dodd have about the emotional intelligence of a trash barrel), and they do all sorts of stupid things, but their behavior can be quite

endearing.

Sometimes (a lot of times), you just want to grab the screen and scream at them “THERE’S AN EASIER WAY,” until you realize they were right all along. And you realize, if they did it your way, everything would be screwed up and everyone would be dead. Because you didn’t notice the crate of gunpowder all the way down the hall, behind the bleach, on the shelf in the fourth janitorial closet which is, by the way, right in your line of fire.

Go figure.

So, basically, if you find yourself in an awkward position on Monday night, stalking your favorite celebrities on Twitter because you have nothing else to do with your life (let’s face it, most of you guys reading this will relate, no matter how weird that is), tune in to Scorpion from 9-10 p.M., because you’ll find that you’ll be reserving that time every week from now on.

# Keeping Classical Alive

By Alicia Zhang (II) & Alicia Zou (IV), Contributing Writers



Symphony Hall - Yo-Yo Ma performs a cello concerto on stage with the BSO .

In a world full of pop music, rap, Electronic Dance Music and more of the like, or what the elderly call “noise,” classical music is often buried beneath the “new generation” of music. Classical music, however, is strongly supported and kept alive through programs such as the Boston Symphony Orchestra (BSO) High School Open Rehearsal program and the Boston Latin School Music Program.

On the chilly fall day of November 13, the BLS Symphonic Band headed to Symphony Hall on their annual field trip and watched the BSO rehearse three pieces: Igor Stravinsky’s sensational orchestral and ballet work, The Rite of Spring, Hamlet by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky and, for its debut in the USA, Brett Dean’s Dramatis Personae, featuring Swedish trumpet soloist Håkan Hardenberger.

A week later, when temperatures had dropped to freezing, the BLS Concert and Philharmonic Orchestras and the cello section of the Repertory Orchestras made the same trek to Symphony Hall. They saw the acclaimed cellist Yo-Yo Ma, accompanied by the BSO, rehearse Sergei Prokofiev’s Symphony-Concerto in E minor. In addition, the Tanglewood Festival Chorus and the BSO joined powers for

John Harbison’s Koussevitzky Said, Eriks Esenvalds’s Lakes Awake at Dawn and Sergei Rachmaninoff’s The Bells.

Both rehearsals were conducted by Latvian-born conductor Andris Nelsons. This is his inaugural year with the BSO as its fifteenth music director, securing him a spot as one of the most prolific conductors of the modern day.

Three hours of straight classical music may seem daunting in a society where appreciation for and understanding of classical music has almost disappeared, especially among the youth, as seen in the distressingly high number of students who chose to utilize the time at Symphony Hall to sleep. Many others, however, feel as if this opportunity has allowed them to gain valuable exposure to and appreciation for this genre of music.

“I’m a cellist in Concert Strings Orchestra and it’s so inspiring to see someone so passionate and dedicated to emoting and expressing through music; it reminded me of why I started playing the cello!” commented Nafisa Wara (I) after the rehearsal.

“This concert showed me a different aspect of classical music: a thrilling combination

of orchestra and band,” said Wendy Li (II), a flutist for the Symphonic Band. “Society today is more into the loud, catchy pop songs or the rhythmic verses of rap. Classical music has been neglected in the shadows of this ever changing pop culture. Young people should appreciate [classical music] more because it is a type of music that has no language barrier and no words, just sound. Sometimes it’s better to get away from the problems of society and just listen.”

Although classical music is not as widely acknowledged today in its purest form as it was in the past, some believe that music has evolved and classical music lives on through its influences.

“[People] appreciate classical music by appreciating pop music,” said clarinetist Edward Wang (I). “Modern music derives itself from classical, and by paying homage to modern music they indirectly praise classical music.”

No matter what genre of music one prefers, Yo-Yo Ma’s answer to why he loves music can be universally understood: “Music is a language, and I can explore the whole world through listening to music, why it was created and who did it.”

## A GrassROOTs Movement?

By Al Spruill (II), Contributing Writer

When you think of feeling full and satisfied, vegan food doesn’t necessarily come to mind. Allston’s newest restaurant resident, however, may just change your mind. Root, a local vegan eatery, markets their food in an interesting way: they don’t explicitly say that they’re vegan! “Plenty of people [upon entering] don’t even realize that there is no meat on the menu!” says Robert, the assistant manager and chef. Since opening in July of 2013, they have become a fixture in the community, boasting friendly employees and a rustic atmosphere. You can see everything being prepared in their open kitchen, and take a seat at any of the copper tables to enjoy your meal.

“I think that it’s important that more [vegan restaurants] are opened because the vegetarian and vegan community lacks choice when it comes to dining out. Also, I think more vegan options and in a wider variety would encourage

non-vegans to try those healthier, more environmentally sound choices,” says Patricia Bowe (II). Eating out as vegan can be difficult almost all the time. As someone who has many vegan friends, it can be difficult to find a place where everyone feels included. Root, however, has provided the perfect hangout spot. The juices are always fresh, pressed per order and come in cute mason jars which add to the “homey” theme. On Saturdays and Sundays, they serve brunch: light and fluffy waffles, sweet potato quesadillas and mouthwatering scrambled tofu and kale. If you are looking for something quick, they have handmade bakery items. This weekend they cooked up some gluten-free blueberry muffins.

“Healthy food, more options and vegan awareness,” is what Boston needs more of, says Zanatul Zannat (II). At Root, every item on their menu is 100 percent vegan (even the aioli sauce),

and the majority of their produce is from right here, New England. If you thought any of that was enticing, then all of you ice cream lovers should rejoice even further. Root was started by FōMū, the vegan ice creamery, which is also on the same block.

Root’s menu includes seven big entrée items: the Allston Grinder, the Homemade Veggie Burger, the carefully prepared Macrobowl salad, and more. They add new items according to whatever they can source locally. At the moment, apples are making a strong appearance on the juice menu. The most popular item is the Root Burger, which is house-made with black beans and quinoa as a substitute for meat. Every one of the ‘Big Bites’ comes with hand-cut Herbed Fries, but the real zinger is the fact that they make their own ketchup. This ketchup is by far the best tomato product you will ever experience: customers have

frequently requested it to be bottled and sold on its own.

The restaurant also thrives due to its employees’ demeanors. “[Now] being around such good food I really appreciate how much time and effort people put into food. I’m glad I have the chance to extend it to other people. I want this place to be as much of a haven for people as possible,” said Robert, who greets every person he serves food to with a smile. He went on to say that he can detect when other restaurants cut corners in preparation and that his home cooking has drastically improved in the time he has worked there. The restaurant certainly feels like a haven. It is a little on the small side but that adds to its charm. Root, with its friendly workers, delicious healthy food and affordable prices, is a must for anyone and everyone. As a fixture in the Allston community, it is here to stay.

## Comics Come Home to Stay

By Max Aboko-Cole (II), Contributing Writer

A few weeks ago, Boston was a host to the legendary stand-up comedy show known as Comics Come Home. With the show entering its twentieth year, Comics is known for being the longest running stand-up comedy show in the country. Comics Come Home works to raise money for the Cam Neely Foundation for Cancer Care, and in twenty years, it has helped raise almost 6 million dollars for the cause.

Denis Leary, the show’s explosive host modeled a hairstyle (which Leary would soon explain to be his character’s hairstyle in his new upcoming FX TV Series “Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll,”) reminiscent of Jane Lynch. In addition to Leary, the show featured Jimmy Fallon of The Tonight Show, Boston Latin School parent Tony V, Jim Gaffigan, Lenny Clarke, Marc Maron, Joe Yanetty, Bill Burr and Robert Kelly.

The show received its name from the connections the comedians have in the Boston area and while not all of the comedians share these direct connections to Boston, the relationships they have with other comedians and their commitment for devoting their time and effort into putting up a show in order to help raise money for such a great cause, made them all honorary Bostonians for the night.

This year was the show’s first time at the TD Garden—typically it would be hosted at the Agganis or the Orpheum. In order to commemorate their twentieth anniversary, the show began with a pre-recorded video presentation of fellow host comedians such as David Letterman, Craig Ferguson and Jon Stewart congratulating the charity on its accomplishments and its continuation.

All throughout the night, the Garden was roaring with laughter especially

in response to Denis Leary’s intensely loud, fury-filled routine. Marc Maron, host of the critically acclaimed podcast WTF, put it best when he began his set with the words, “I’m glad the theme of the evening seems to be anger.” The event had everything you could expect from a late night comedy show, with all the crude profanity laced jokes. The night had many instances of raging local Boston pride, including a rendition of “Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band,” which detailed all that is great about being from Boston.

Jimmy Fallon, despite not actually being from Boston, has paid tribute to the hub in the past with his Sox-rom-com, “Fever Pitch.” Jimmy once again called on his inner-Bostonian with his wacky dues of “Dirty Water” and “Sweet Caroline,” each of which everyone sang along to.

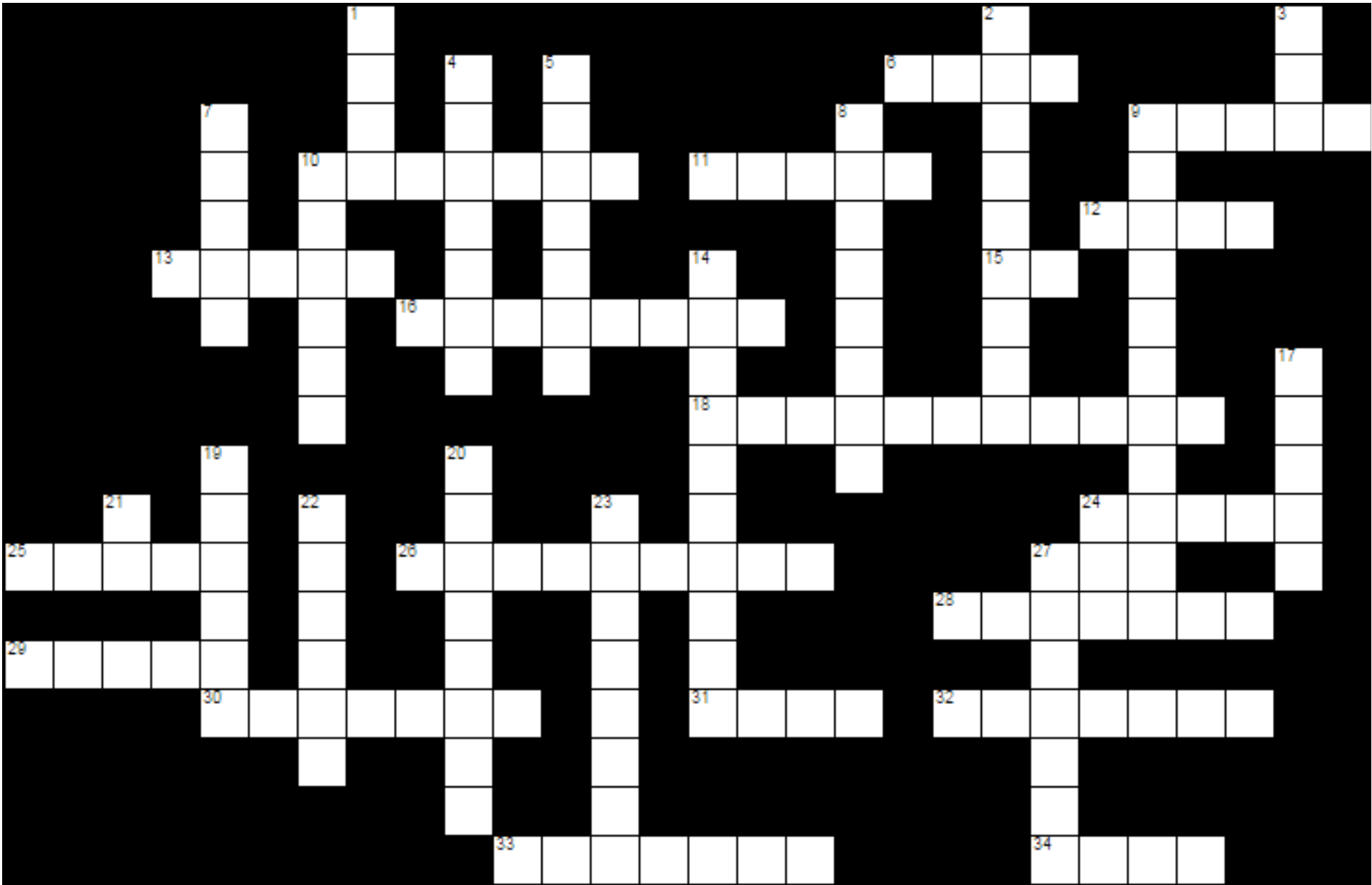
Tony V, a local comedian and

Charleston native, opened the show after a quick performance by Leary’s band “The Enablers.” V has appeared in films such as “The Town,” “The Heat,” “World’s Greatest Dad,” as well as shows such as “Louie” and “Seinfeld”. After the show, V had this to say:

“I think it went fantastic, I was proud to be part of it, good cause, and working for 12,000 people is something you don’t really imagine for yourself.”

The show concluded with The Enablers’ final, expletive-filled set, a long-time tradition of the event. Denis Leary’s final speech and farewells from the rest of the comedians were surprisingly accompanied by none other than the Boston Bruins hockey team. The night was such an astounding success with a sold out show and a fantastic line up, which begs the question of, how will they be able to top it next year?





Across

6. Shout-out to all the \_\_\_\_
9. A pretzel, or catching feelings
10. BLS' most dapper teacher
11. History king left this year
12. This was made about a \_\_\_\_ ago
13. Your photos aren't safe on the \_\_\_\_
15. What, you don't like Sodium?
16. Kim broke the \_\_\_\_
18. Obama laid down the law on \_\_\_\_
24. A "College Dropout"

25. Celtics' savior
26. Barcelona & Real Madrid rivalry
28. This English teacher is a girl's best friend
29. From Mass to NH back to Fox News
30. Club going up on a \_\_\_\_
31. The original Argo was a \_\_\_\_
32. Matthew McConaughey drives a \_\_\_\_
33. BLS Italian governor
34. A BLS student's favorite type of day

Down

1. Water, to Pope Francis
2. Interstellar black hole
3. College Football's smartest team
4. 2014 World Cup Champs
5. Funny comedian's unfunny new sitcom
7. Stay away from Dr. Karydas if you have \_\_\_\_
8. A BLS Dropout
9. Michelle Obama's favorite fall vegetable
10. Take me to \_\_\_\_
14. A springtime illness pending

- diploma
17. Eyebrows on \_\_\_\_
19. Recently re-signed by Pats
20. Recently deceased crossdressing nanny and clown-doctor
21. North Korea's most injured official
22. Animated spy show embraced "vice"
23. SNL's resident young person: Pete \_\_\_\_
27. Dystopian heroine who is burning up right now

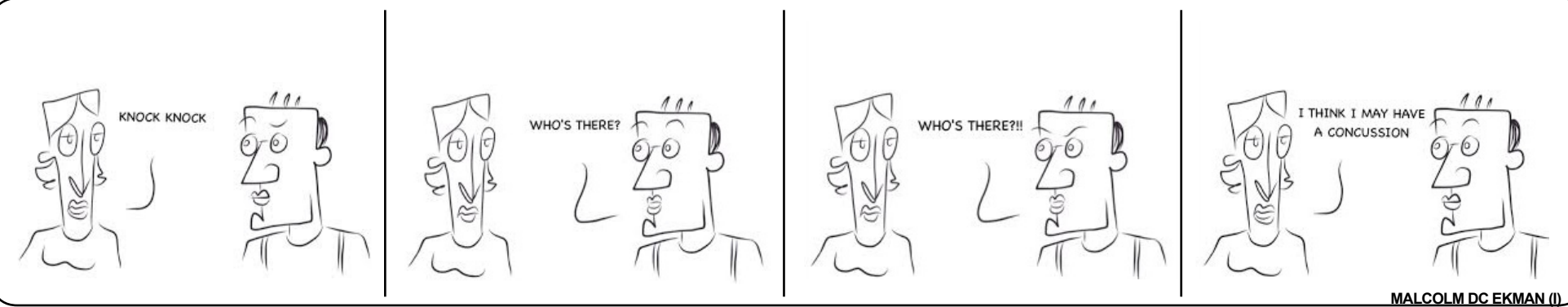
Spotlight on BLS Happy Cactus

By Malcolm DC Ekman (I), A&E Editor

Happy Cactus is a three-piece rock band featuring BLS’ very own Joe Weydt (I) and Matt Pitts (‘12). They’re influenced by acts such as Led Zeppelin, The Foo Fighters, The Beatles and Cream. The band began playing together in early April in preparation for the Gorilla Music Battle of the Bands. While deciding on a name, drummer Dan Whitelock sent a dancing cactus emoji on Facebook and soon after, Happy Cactus was born. The group started out with covers, but began writing their own material over time. They went on to win the aforementioned Battle of the Bands, playing for a crowd of Boston Latin School students screaming their heads off and dancing wildly. Bassist Pitts reflected on the event, “It was really fun to see actual fans of the band, dancing and singing along to the music.” After the show, the band went into the studio to record their debut, Eponymous EP. “Seeing our music on iTunes and Spotify was really crazy,” noted Weydt. He also commented on the group dynamic, describing it as low-key and fun. “Dan brings the hair metal, Matt brings the funk and I try to keep it rock n’ roll.” They hope to continue rocking and have more shows as well as a full album in the works. On Wednesdays, you may see students donning their t-shirts (featuring art by Che Goncalves (I)) around the halls of BLS for “Happy Cactus Humpday.” You can listen to their music via Facebook and iTunes.



Tongue Depression



# The Grapes of Wrath

By Justin Flattery (I), Contributing Writer



BLS - "If you give a man a soccer team, you give him a family." -Peter Favorito (II)

The sun rises over a sleepy Boston. Although the morning of November 4 is young, Captain Joseph Tarantino (I) awakes and begins with his routine of push-ups, a large steak breakfast and the Pledge of Allegiance. He is ready for a momentous day ahead. Nathan Jewett Wolf (I) is already reviewing film, writing notes and making plans for the upcoming game as he sits on the bus to school. Jake French (I) is eating some toast. The day of November 4 was the boys' soccer team's first playoff game against Dracut; a historic game to say the least.

Leading up to this game was a legendary regular season for the Boston Latin School Wolfpack. It began fast-

paced and exciting, with a win over the Eastern Massachusetts, Metro-Boston, Middlesex County powerhouse team known as Somerville. Goals from Billy "The Sultan" Hart (I) and Griffin "Has Nice Side" Burns (II) set a precedent of offense that would carry on for the rest of the season.

The boys' soccer team was led by the "futsal-tatic" savvy Jason Miller, who is almost as passionate about coaching as he is about social media. From his witty naming of soccer formations ('A' and 'B') to his leadership, Miller was destined to lead the team to a season of success and fun. Assisted by soccer gurus, Evan Nelson and David Baily, the team knew they were

surrounded by a reliable coaching staff.

This was the most successful year in the Boston Latin School boys' soccer history. They qualified for the State playoffs with 10 wins, 5 losses, and 3 ties. Highlights of the season included wins against strong Dual County League (DCL) teams such as Lincoln-Sudbury High School and Wayland High School. They even held Acton-Boxboro High School to a scoreless draw, with the help of Pearse Martin (I) in the net. Whether it was Jake "Supercuts" French's hat trick or Richard Huang's (II) clinical finishing, independent performances helped shape many important games. The regular season ended with a 2-0

win against Danvers, including goals from Theo "The Turk" Meletilidis (I) and Brendan "I'm not Michael" Macintosh (II).

While there was a considerable amount of success, the soccer team did have its fair share of setbacks. Injuries for Macintosh and Ulises "The Barber" Alvarez (II) were major losses to the Latin midfield. Arguably the biggest setback of the season came on October 31, when the Latin boys, dressed as grapes, Spartans, Napoleon Dynamite, and half of the cast of Up, lost the coveted Halloween costume contest. Confidence was broken and tears were shed, but the boys decided to use this failure as motivation for the future. The next game on their schedule was against Dracut High School.

The playoff game against Dracut was a tense affair. With heroic goalkeeping from Nathan "Who's that Boy" Jewett Wolf, the game ended 0-0. After two periods of extra time, the game was still scoreless. Penalty kicks were used to decide its outcome. With the fifth penalty kick for Latin, Owen "Woody" Woodcock (III) stole away Dracut's season (and the hearts of many) by securing a Wolfpack victory.

The next playoff game was against Woburn.

Billy Gove (II), a spectator of the game commented that it was an "exciting and fast-paced match."

Thanks to Captain Joseph Tarantino's 12 flyers, much of the senior class was

in attendance. Unfortunately, team leader Jake French had received a concussion and would not be playing. With countless screaming fans, the players felt as if they were playing in the World Cup in Brazil. Although they fought valiantly (goal by Joseph Tarantino), the game ended 2-1 in favor of Woburn. While the game did not go according to plan, the boys, looking back at their successful season, had much to be proud of.

Captain Nathan Jewett Wolff said about the team, "Every one of the guys on this team knows that every other guy had his back. It's that team unity that got us where we were. But that only made us good, our skill and talent made us great. You will not find a team with such a multitude of individually skilled players at BLS..."

Moving forward, the soccer team hopes to do even better next year. Returning veterans such as Nathan "It's crazy over here" Baranski (II) and Caswell "The Hawk" Ellis (II) will use their experience to lead the team to success. Rising talent in Fernando "Esco" Escobar (III), Vladimir "Insert Current Twitter Name" Ventura (III), Mark "The Townie" Williamson (III), and Roger "The Flash" Cawdette (IV) assure soccer superiority for the future.

When asked to sum up his feelings, Peter "The Comedian" Favorito (II) said, "A wise man once said, 'If you give a man a soccer team, you give him a family.'"

## Wolfpack Football: A Brotherhood

By Solomon Taieb (II) & Conor Freeley (I), Contributing Writers

Bright lights shine on purple uniforms, cheerleaders shout in perfect synchronization, fans scream players' numbers and roar "GO PACK," and the football band plays "Hey Baby." This is unlike anything else; this is Latin football. As the Wolfpack takes the field on Friday nights, they fight for the school and for each other. They are soldiers marching onto the battlefield, striving to emerge victorious. Every time they play, they teach a lesson about hard work, dedication and brotherhood. Known as a sport that requires teamwork, football builds character and unites players.

"Every Friday is unique...We all know we're...fighting for one another, relying on each other to do [our] jobs... If someone screws up, we don't single them out; it's on all of us to recover and move on to the next play, as a team and as a family. It's much deeper than just a game," said varsity guard and defensive tackle, Timothy Shea (II).

For many it does become much more than a game. Prospective players begin the season in the sweltering August heat as athletes with a vague sense of purpose. They emerge in the brisk November air as family members. The bonds created by football seem to transcend grades, cliques and social statuses. Unlikely teammates become lifetime friends as inside jokes arise, camaraderie grows and brotherhood forms. It does not matter the outcome of the season because wins and losses are just numbers in columns. Statistics are not evidence of the hard work that the



White Stadium - BLS Football team facing Bedford High School.

team puts in at every practice.

After getting off to a rough start, the Wolfpack football team managed to bounce back and achieve a towering 21-7 victory against Medford on their senior night. During the game, sounds filled the air: pads hitting each other, teams making random calls and Wolfpack fans in the bleachers issuing loud screams.

"This is a strong football team with a lot of character and a lot of heart. No matter what is going on everyone gives 100 percent...We as a whole are a family; we pick each other up if we are down and we push each other to do our best everyday. We have some strong leaders that we all trust to...set a good example for us in how we should

play... I have high hopes for our team in the upcoming Thanksgiving game and seasons to come," said varsity cornerback Mike Litto (III).

Some in the BLS community mock the football team's current losing record, but many would agree that a team is more than numbers. Kids sacrifice their precious time after school to get beat up play after play in the longest-lasting and arguably one of the most demanding fall sports BLS offers. Wins, losses, playing time, varsity letters, stats and helmet stickers mean little in the long run. At the end of the day, the Wolfpack manages to teach everyone a lesson about the true meaning of the word "team." No matter what the score is or what their record is, they always

work hard and stick together.

Coach John McDonough often reiterates to his players that they are "just borrowing that number," in reference to Latin School football's rich and lengthy history that dates back to the late 1800s.

Clichéd motivational sayings often proclaim that one should "play for the team on his jersey, not the number." Latin School football players, however, are often playing for the number they wear and the history behind it. They are playing to honor the legacy of generations of players who wore the same number. Perhaps this generation of BLS football players will return to a Thanksgiving game in 30 years and see the numbers they wore and the positions they played riding triumphantly into victory on the Harvard football field.

Senior linebacker, James Chow, enjoys the history of the sport. "Obviously it's nice to win, but it's still awesome being able to go play football every day with a bunch of great guys that all love...[this] great American tradition," he said.

As the 128th annual Thanksgiving game against English High School draws near, the Latin School football team continues to practice every day at Clemente Field. After the notoriously tough loss against English last year, the new Wolfpack players and coaches are hungry for a victory that will make the school proud.

With hard work, blood, sweat, and tears, the team hopes that the Wolfpack will prevail.



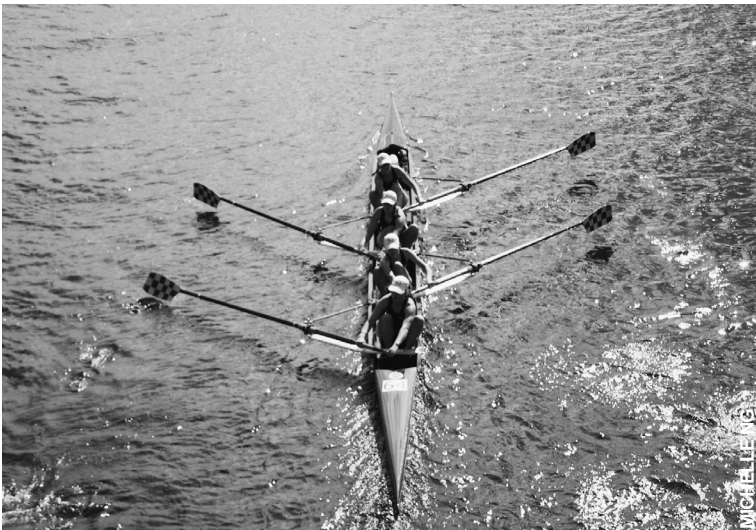
# BLS Crew Team Participates in HOCR 2014

By Stephen Caruso (II), Contributing Writer

The Boston Latin School Girl’s Crew team placed 41 out of 84 in the recent Head of the Charles River event this past October, beating out more than half of the competition and guaranteeing BLS crew a place in next year’s race.

The race took place on October 19 with all teams and their respective boats for the women’s Youth Fours division starting at different times at the Boston University Boathouse. Completing the race in just over 21 minutes, the BLS team reached the finish line near the Northeastern University boat-house in high spirits setting a personal record and missing first place by only a two minute margin.

Five members on the team participated in the race that Sunday; Katie Yeager (I), Maggie Coppinger (I), Mary-



Charles River - The BLS girls' 4+ rows past the Eliot Bridge.

Jane Crowley (I), Riley Mulry (I), and Olivia Zorn (I). The BLS crew team’s success is made possible by these five racers who motivate their teammates with great leadership and positivity. For Coppinger motivation is a key factor while

competing and winning. She says, “When we went under the last bridge, our good friend made a 15 foot sign that said ‘reckless’ and she told us she made a sign but didn't tell us what was on it and it was awesome! Our coach from the

spring was all about ‘controlled recklessness’ and that was how we wanted to race, so seeing that sign was very exciting and was motivation to finish strong and reckless!”

For many people on the crew team, competition and a sister-like bond brings the girls closer together. Despite not receiving a top finish in the Head of the Charles River race, the pride felt in working hard and trying as hard as possible is the true reward. Enthusiasm, desire and perseverance are common qualities in this closely knit band of young women, and these qualities are especially apparent in the team’s captains.

“Crew isn't about rowing a boat, it's about defying what you thought was humanly possible,” says Crowley. “It's the moments when you're go-

ing down the race course and you don't think you can go anymore, but somehow, some way, you and every other girl in front and behind you find it somewhere inside them to keep going. It's those moments that bond you and those 4 or 8 other people together in a way I don't think any other sport can.”

Of course, crew isn’t all fun and games. For the entire crew team it’s a serious commitment that requires consistent practice and a solid work ethic. For many girls, crew does not only change your schedule, it also changes your spirit.

“On the river is where I am the best version of myself,” says Crowley. “Things that I have learned from crew have spilled into every aspect of my life. I have never in my life, nor do I think I ever will, find something I love more than crew.”

## Baby, We Were Born to Run

By Jack Connolly (II), Contributing Writer



Wrentham, MA - BLS XC runs at the Baystate Invitational Meet.

"How is cross country hard? All you do is run." Want to know what Boston Latin School’s XC (cross country) runners do when they hear this? They laugh.

Running 100, 200 or even 400 meters is a piece-of-cake for most people. What distinguishes the BLS XC runners from the most people is our ability to tough it out and push our endurance to the limits throughout the entire 5000 meters.

By our own free will, every day after school, we train and train. Each day brings a different workout, from racing up hills in Brookline to pushing through timed tempo runs along the Charles River.

“Practices are definitely hard. But still, there's just something satisfying about completing a workout and pushing yourself to the limit and knowing that you have amazing teammates to support you along the way.” said XC veteran and senior, Celestine He.

Starting in the blistering heat of August and ending with the frigid weather of November, this season, as well as those to come for indoor and outdoor track, are dedicated to fellow runner Anna Jerome. At every meet the team wore orange bracelets bearing the words “Run for Anna.”

This year, the Wolf Pack did a phenomenal job competing against the dominant teams in the Dual County League (DCL) and other powerhouse XC teams from across the state. Even though we were hit hard by injuries later in the season, including shin splints, stress fractures and ankle sprains, the XC team was

able to bounce back and end with a truly impressive season.

Girls’ captains Alannah O'Brien (I), Grace O'Brien (I) and Emily Moya (I), along with varsity runners, Celestine He (I), Julia Santoro (II), Sophia Vitello (II) and Sarah Kiamie (III), set impressive times for the girls varsity team. Sarah placed 13th overall at the Bay State Invitational meet, followed closely by Alannah and Grace. At the Eastern Massachusetts Divisional Championship race, Sarah, running a 5k PR (Personal Record) of 20:01, took 29th place out of 139 runners. Alannah came in shortly afterwards, finishing with a time of 20:58.

For the boys, captains Isaiah Westphalen (I) and Alex Hsia (I) led the team. This year, Andrey Zvonar (III) improved significantly and is now consistently the first BLS runner to cross the finish line. Veteran XC runners Andrew Yang (II), Victor Yang (II) and Yuta Belmont (III) all ran well at Divisionals, securing a 14th place team finish.

David Rans (II), James Westphalen (II), Theo Hanlon (IV) and Cameron Russell (V) all qualified for the post-season statewide Coaches Invitational as well. They pushed through the mud and rain and ran well, showing what it truly means to run for BLS.

“We performed really well this year. In the past, we relied on a few good people to carry the team, however, this year, everybody stepped up to the plate and delivered. Everybody on the boys' team had considerable PRs this season,” captain Alex Hsia

reflected. “I think it can be attributed to the fact that we're such a close-knit team. We all know each other’s limits, who's good at what, who can handle the sprints and who can keep up the pace on the long runs. This has allowed us to really push each other and motivate each other to new heights.”

Although the Pack did not take home the ultimate XC title this year, we all ran well and had lots of fun doing it—eating our weight in ice cream and going on crepe runs.

"Many people think that XC is more of an individual sport than a team sport, but that is not true," said Captain Grace O'Brien. “We all work—and suffer—together in order for each of us to improve. Our team is a family, and we are all really

supportive of each other. At the end of the day with sweat dripping off our faces, we still run because of the sense of accomplishment we receive—or maybe just because we are insane.”

The Cross Country team might not get the recognition it deserves at BLS, but we can get over it. After all we are distance runners. We have been trained to keep going, even when it is hard, when it hurts, when it sucks, when we do not want to. Despite the neglect, we will continue to look forward and progress through weather and storm towards the finish line. Call it what you want: stubbornness, endurance, determination or guts but no matter what, deep down, we just do not know how to give up.

## Spotlight on Coach Meagher

Always seen sporting his cross country vest and MSCTA (Massachusetts State Track Coaches Association) official cap, Coach Michael Meagher is synonymous with Boston Latin School track and field.

Coaching at Boston Latin School since 2005, Coach Meagher is the only person who coaches during all three seasons. Serving as head of the cross country, indoor track, and outdoor track teams, he continues to share his (seemingly infinite) knowledge of running with each of his runners. Coaching the Wolfpack in 2009, he helped the outdoor track team take fourth place at the Division 1 State meet, tenth place at the All-State meet and eighth at the New England Championship meet.

Each year during the fall, Coach Meagher spends his days with the cross country team, instructing distance runners on various elements of the sport, from how to best confront hills to how to set a manageable (but not too slow) race pace in a 5k. From August to November, he stands out on the course, being able to pick out his BLS runners from a huge sea of athletes.

For the rest of the year, indoor and outdoor track and field takes up his life. Dividing his time between sprinting and distance, Coach Meagher insures that every runner gets his attention and makes significant progress throughout

the season.

Coach, however, does not have time for laziness or disinterest. Not afraid to kick a student off the team if he feels they are missing practice or not giving any of their time to running, he wants athletes on his teams that are as genuinely passionate about the sport as he is.

The thing that makes Coach Meagher such a remarkable coach is the fact that he truly loves what he does. Whether it is acting as the official at a state relay meet or shouting words of encouragement as his cross country runners take on intimidating hills, he always brings passion and dedication to the track. He is always looking to welcome anyone into the track and field family, giving everybody a chance, regardless of their ability.

Furthermore, even if it is sprinting 200s on the track, tackling the last two miles of a grueling 5k, or being better runners in general, Coach Meagher inspires and motivates his athletes to push themselves with his infectious attitude and commitment. Recognized as a distinguished official and outstanding member of the track and field community, he is part of the Executive Board of the MSTCA and was inducted into the organization’s Coaches Hall of Fame in 2011. Because of all his dedication and enthusiasm, Coach Meagher remains today one of Boston Latin School’s most well-known and loved coaches.



# BLS Golf on the Rise

By Eoin Lane (II), Contributing Writer



Franklin Park - BLS Golf with 7th graders Khai Buttner (VI) and Anne Walsh (VI).

As you may have heard, this year has been the most successful season for the Boston Latin School golf team in years. This year, in the Dual County League (DCL), the team was a real contender against some of the best student golf teams in the state. Led by Coach Wetherby and Co-captains Declan Lane (I) and Graham Gozgian (I), the team started off the year strong with their first win in their first match against Bedford High School. This is the year they could make some waves in the DCL: BLS golf is no longer viewed as an easy win by competitors.

What made this season

so incredibly impressive is the talent found in some very young golfers, specifically two seventh graders on the team.

Khai Buttner (VI) and Anne Walsh (VI) showed up to tryouts ready to play, and they certainly earned their place on the varsity squad. Both of these golfers have extreme potential and could be the leaders of the team in just a few years.

“It’s great to see some young talent on the team. These are the ones who will be bringing in the wins after we’ve graduated,” says team member Dan O’Leary (II). He feels confident in leaving the team in the hands of these youthful

individuals.

Buttner, a member of Granite Links Golf Course, hits the ball with unmatched precision and plays to win. He stood out at tryouts and has started in many matches this season over more experienced golfers.

Walsh, a member of The Country Club in Brookline, has proved herself to be among the top female golfers at that very exclusive course. She has consistently started in the majority of matches and outplayed most of the opponents. With the highest average in points per match on the team, it is hard not to recognize how formidable a competitor she will be moving forward.

“Always consistent, Anne and Khai have the game covered,” team coach, Mr. Wetherby, says. “Great off the tee, from the fairway and on the green.”

At this point, they are still improving some small point of their game, but already have the natural talent it takes to be phenomenal golfers.

It is clear that both golfers have been playing for years and are absolutely devoted to improving their game. These seventh graders are playing in matches against mostly juniors

and seniors, which can be intimidating for young athletes, but Anne and Khai are immune to the pressure and consistently provide the team with double-digit points in crucial situations.

Accompanying these two seventh graders are six freshmen this year, making BLS varsity golf team one of the youngest teams in the DCL. In a few years they will all be seniors, and with practice, all of the young talents on the team will have developed into truly spectacular golfers. BLS golf will be a force to reckon with in the DCL.

“After a successful season with these young kids, it’s great to know that the team has such a bright future,” says Co-captain Declan Lane (I).

These young athletes certainly do represent a “bright future” for the varsity golf team. Good luck to all of our young golfers. Keep BLS golf on the rise.

## Brady vs. Manning: Who’s Better?

By Jordan Derbort (II), Contributing Writer

People often debate over who is the best quarterback in the National Football League (NFL). According to a poll done by SportsNation, 59 percent of people agree that, all said and done, Manning holds this title. His career accomplishments, however, show otherwise.

“Give me Brady’s clutch gene and post-season record. Give me Brady as the slightly more solid rock upon which to build Super Bowl teams,” said sports talk show star Skip Bayless.

Peyton Manning’s 11 wins and 12 losses postseason record does not even compare to Brady’s 18-8 record. His 47.8 completion percentage pales in comparison to Brady’s 69.2 percent. Brady also holds three Super Bowl rings, while Manning has only one.

“He’s a legend,” said Eoin Lane (II), “He’s proven himself year after year in tough situations.”

John Elway, owner of the Denver Broncos, has constructed a high-powered offense to support Peyton Manning: his teammates include Demaryius Thomas, Julius Thomas and Emmanuel Sanders. Now look at Brady: he’s got Gronk. Sure, he has Julian Edelman and Brandon LaFell as well, but they aren’t explosive receivers like the ones that surround Manning. Yet, in four out of the last five games these two teams played, Brady has had a higher quarterback rating, according to ESPN (Entertaining and Sports Programming Network).

Turnovers are another significant factor in comparing these two greats. Manning almost consistently turns over the ball. He makes bad decisions, and when he threw two interceptions against the Oakland Raiders—the worst team in the National Football League (NFL)—it was cause for concern. He threw seven interceptions in nine games and produced a touchdown-to-interception ratio of roughly four-to-one, compared to Brady’s seven-to-one.

Yes, Brady has fumbled. Fumbles, however, occur when an offensive line is unable to protect the quarterback. Luckily, shifts in the Patriots’ offensive line have stabilized the group recently. For most, the matchup between the Patriots and the Broncos serves as a testament to Brady’s superiority.

Mr. G, the BLS baseball coach, agrees.

“[Brady is] unbelievable in big games ... so clutch, and a great leader,” he said.

Events that occurred during the 16th matchup between Brady and Manning are further evidence of the former’s greatness. Despite their loss of Jerod Mayo due to injury, the Patriots improved their defense this year with offseason additions of Brandon Browner and Darrelle Revis. The Broncos entered the matchup with Aqib Talib, DeMarcus Ware and TJ Ward as their new defensive acquisitions. Additionally, Von Miller, arguably the best pass-rushing linebacker in the league, returned from an ACL injury which ended his 2013 season. These additions proved relatively insignificant in this game, as Brady shredded the Denver defense, throwing four touchdowns and one interception. Manning, against the Mayo-less New England defense, completed two touchdowns and threw two interceptions.

Brady’s performance with a lackluster receiving group displays his skill. Not only does he produce with his receivers, but he also leads them on game-winning drives, an art that few have mastered. Brady is arguably the most clutch NFL quarterback to ever play the game.

Last year, NFL players were asked a question: “Given two minutes left in the game and the Super Bowl on the line, which quarterback would you choose?” Brady received 128 of 320 possible votes; Manning, 86.

The raw facts are in Manning’s favor: his career touchdown record last year broke the single-season touchdown record (formerly Brady’s) and he is on-pace to set career highs in touchdown passes and passing yards this year. Last year’s Super Bowl, however, shows that when Manning is put in the big games, he can’t get the job done. Brady, on the other hand, consistently performs.

His stats prove it: 18-8 in the postseason, 11-5 against Manning, 18 touchdowns to one interception in his last five games.

This is a quarterback performing better than anyone else right now, on a team that has the potential to take home the Vince Lombardi Trophy this year. That’s why Tom Brady is not only better than Peyton Manning, but also the best quarterback in the league.

## Spotlight on Brian Regan

By Gabe Edelman (I), Staff Writer



His bright Hawaiian shirts breathe life into a drab Boston Latin School hallway in the dead of winter. His singing voice echoes from the music wing to concert halls around the nation. His false starts on the football field strike fear into the hearts of high school football players across the state. At any BLS-sanctioned sporting event you’ll hear the fateful chant – quietly at first, then building into an overpowering earthquake of sound: “PUT IN REGAN.” His name is Brian Regan.

Brian’s journey to the top was not an easy one. Born on August 19, 1997 in the slums of Guyana’s capital Georgetown, he wor—What? He was born in New York? Oh, I wouldn’t have known that. Anyway, if

you go to Boston Latin School, you probably know Brian. If you don’t, you definitely follow his incredibly popular Twitter account, where he churns out hilarious tweets day after day. He is a legend on the football team, where he’s been a stalwart linebacker for four straight years. As I mentioned before, his voice is that of an angel, and you’ll frequently hear him belting out Earth, Wind & Fire’s “September” in the halls.

Brian is a friend to everyone, offering plenty of compliments and plenty of unacknowledged high-fives. He’s a blast at parties, known for waking up in the middle of the night and whipping up a batch of chocolatey brownies for everyone.

My first memory of Brian is that of a short, long haired, chubby sixie getting his seat moved in Latin class for repeatedly talking to his neighbors. But my favorite memory of Brian is the time he spelled the word “cigarette” incorrectly in two different ways in one sentence. After knowing Brian for six years, I know him as much more than just a chubby cheeked little kid. I know him as outgoing, extremely friendly, upbeat and most of all, a loyal friend.